

2013 Wildlife Action Plan Revision Overview

Specific List of Revisions

[Taxonomic Group Addition: Crayfish \(25 Species\)](#)

Kentucky is home to a rich diversity of freshwater crayfish with 54 species documented in Kentucky. During the initial drafting of Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan in 2005, the Species of Greatest Conservation Need task force did not have the time or the expertise to critically evaluate Crayfish SGCN. During the 2005 Wildlife Action Plan drafting process, it was decided that one major goal of the 2013 revision would be the addition of freshwater crayfish as a taxonomic group of conservation need. To address this goal, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) partnered with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) to provide funding and direction for KSNPC to compile distribution maps and species accounts for crayfish SGCN. For purposes of grouping, we included all taxa within Class Malacostraca to be part of the freshwater crayfish SGCN group. Once these distribution maps and species accounts were compiled, KDFWR sent this material to crayfish experts statewide for comment and review. Comments were incorporated into the species accounts and distribution maps, and the final product was reviewed by the public.

Addition of 25 Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Twenty-five new SGCN have been identified for addition to Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan. As of the 2013 Wildlife Action Plan revision, the following species will be considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Class
	<u>Fish (Actinopterygii)</u>	
<i>Hybopsis amnis</i>	Pallid Shiner	Actinopterygii
<i>Clinostomus elongatus</i>	Redside Dace	Actinopterygii
<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>	Sicklefin Chub	Actinopterygii
<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>	Sturgeon Chub	Actinopterygii
<i>Cyprinella venusta</i>	Blacktail Shiner	Actinopterygii
<i>Ictiobus niger</i>	Black Buffalo	Actinopterygii
<i>Lota lota</i>	Burbot	Actinopterygii
<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	Paddlefish	Actinopterygii
<i>Forbesichthys agassizii</i>	Spring Cavefish	Actinopterygii

Amphibians (Amphibia)

<i>Desmognathus conanti</i>	Spotted Dusky Salamander	Amphibia
	Northern Dusky Salamander	
<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>		Amphibia
<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Eastern Spadefoot	Amphibia

Birds (Aves)

<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Whip-poor-will	Aves
<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	Chuck-will's-widow	Aves
	Black-throated green warbler	
<i>Dendroica virens</i>		Aves
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel	Aves
<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Ruffed Grouse	Aves
<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Sora	Aves
<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Virginia Rail	Aves
<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane	Aves
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Tundra Swan	Aves
<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Lesser Scaup	Aves
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup	Aves
<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Black-necked Stilt	Aves
<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Spotted Sandpiper	Aves

These species will be added to the Wildlife Action Plan because new information has surfaced over the past several years indicating that population declines or widespread habitat destruction of key habitats are occurring in Kentucky. In contrast, no species will be deleted from the list of SGCN for this revision.

Conservation Action Additions

Over the past five years, a few major omissions have surfaced in regard to Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Actions (Appendix 3.3 Kentucky's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy conservation actions). Specifically we have added the following four Conservation Actions to address conservation needs, or details within existing conservation actions, that were largely overlooked by Kentucky's original Wildlife Action Plan.

187) Restore populations of conservation concern using captive propagation/release efforts and translocation efforts in areas where habitats have been restored

188) Implement monitoring, surveillance, and response plans for wildlife diseases affecting species of greatest conservation need in Kentucky; specifically, White Nose Syndrome (WNS).

189) Work with the KY Department of Transportation (DOT) and other agencies to incorporate landscape-level planning (e.g. wildlife corridors, habitat connectivity) into infrastructure/road-building efforts.

190) Partner with Kentucky's In Stream Flow network to identify and work to resolve high-priority issues (e.g. timing of dam release, fish barrier removal, development of in-stream flow standards which integrate biological and hydrological data).

[Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change in Kentucky: A Strategy of Resilience](#)

Global climate change has the potential to compound existing threats to Kentucky's species and habitats of conservation concern; in light of this threat, we created a planning document: Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change in Kentucky: A Strategy of Resilience. This document is designed to be adaptively managed with the Wildlife Action Plan, and edited as new climate change science becomes available. This chapter has the following six specific goals of action to increase the resilience of species and habitats to negative impacts caused by changing climate.

Goal 1: Conserve and restore functioning ecosystems in Kentucky

Goal 2: Create or protect "key" or "concentrating" habitats

Goal 3: Implement multi-agency plans for wildlife corridors/connectivity in Kentucky

Goal 4: Monitor fish, wildlife, and ecosystem responses to climate change

Goal 5: Evaluate the effectiveness of actions implemented as a result of Kentucky's Climate Change chapter, and adaptively manage populations and habitats based on monitoring results

Goal 6: Continue efforts to educate the public about wildlife conservation and continue efforts to stay optimally informed of current climate change predictions and observed climate change.

Revision of the Caves, Rock Shelters, and Clifflines Terrestrial Guild

Karst topography in Kentucky harbors high levels of subterranean biodiversity and was not specifically included in any Terrestrial Habitat Guild during the original drafting of Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan. To adequately convey the importance of this habitat, the "Caves, Rock Shelters, and Clifflines Terrestrial Habitat Guild" has been revised to include Karst. This terrestrial habitat guild is now called, "Karst, Cave, Rock Shelter, and Clifflines Terrestrial Habitat Guild" (Appendix 3.8 Kentucky's terrestrial habitat guild descriptions, prioritized conservation actions, objectives, and performance measures). A map of Karst topography in Kentucky, as well as a description of the importance of this habitat type, are included in the r

Appendix 3.11 Additional conservation actions for 2013 revision to Kentucky's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Code	Research	Conservation action
Issues addressed by this action (Appendix 3.1 describes the issues)		
187	Y	Restore populations of conservation concern using captive propagation/release efforts and translocation efforts in areas where habitats have been restored Issues: 3H, 3R, 3U, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5K, 6G.
188	Y	Implement monitoring, surveillance, and response plans for wildlife diseases affecting species of greatest conservation need in Kentucky; specifically, White Nose Syndrome. Issues: 5F, 5H, 5L, 6D, 6G.
189		Work with the KY Department of Transportation (DOT) and other agencies to incorporate landscape-level planning (e.g. wildlife corridors, habitat connectivity) into infrastructure/road-building efforts. Issues: 3F, 3G, 3H, 3J, 3Q, 3R, 3U, 5D, 5F, 5H, 6A, 6B, 6C.
190	Y	Partner with Kentucky's In Stream Flow network to identify and work to resolve high-priority issues (e.g. timing of dam release, fish barrier removal, development of in-stream flow standards which integrate biological and hydrological data). Issues: 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2J, 2L, 3U, 4B, 5K, 6B, 6G.

4 additional conservation actions.

Kentucky's Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their statuses.

name	Scientific name	Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank
Amphibia (3 species).					
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	N	N	G5	S4
Northern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	N	N	G5	S5
Spotted Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus conanti</i>	N	N	G5	S3

[Literature cited](#)

[Download all 3 new 2013 Amphibian Statewide Maps \(2 MB\)](#)

CLASS Amphibia

Eastern Spadefoot

Scaphiopus holbrookii

Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank	GRank	SRank
Status	Status			(Simplified)	(Simplified)
N	N	G5	S4	G5	S4

G-Trend Unknown

G-Trend Data from across the range indicates that the overall population trend is thought

Comment to be stable to decreasing but populations are very difficult to monitor due to the irregular and unpredictable breeding habits of this species.

The Eastern Spadefoot is a wide-ranging species known from about 24 states in the eastern, midwestern, and southeastern U.S. and is listed by state heritage programs in about half of these (Conant and Collins 1991; U.S. Geological Survey/National Amphibian Atlas accessed 3/15/2010; NatureServe accessed 3/11/2010). Still, relatively little hard information is available on the distribution

and abundance of this highly fossorial animal. Adults call only during brief, irregular breeding episodes during periods of heavy rain but otherwise spend much of their time underground (Lannoo 2005). State Conservation Statuses

(NatureServe, accessed 3/11/2010) are as follows: S1 in Connecticut, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia; S2 in Arkansas, Indiana, Massachusetts, and Missouri; S2/S3 in New York, S3 in Illinois; S4 in Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, and Virginia; and S5 or unranked in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Eastern Spadefoots are believed to have been extirpated from portions of their original range due to habitat destruction (McCoy 1982; Klemens 1993).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend The Eastern Spadefoot has been added to the Kentucky State Wildlife Action Plan

Comment for three reasons: (1) its overall distribution and abundance are poorly known in comparison with other native anurans; (2) most of the documented breeding sites are temporary pools that in recent years have usually gone dry before the tadpoles have transformed into froglets; and (3) complete larval die-offs from disease have been observed at 2 different breeding ponds that have been monitored regularly by the state herpetologist.

Eastern Spadefoots have been documented from at least 37 Kentucky counties ranging from Greenup, Lawrence, and Floyd in eastern Kentucky westward to Carlisle County at the base of the loess bluffs bordering the Mississippi River. Some of these records date back into the 1930's, and many are based on single

specimens. No records are available from the Bluegrass Region or Western Coal Field but this species does occur at least sparingly in all other sections of Kentucky. Within the past 10 years breeding sites have been found in Rowan, Powell, Rockcastle, Laurel, McCreary, Meade, Hart, and Edmonson counties. Massive tadpole die-offs have been noted at breeding ponds in Rockcastle and Edmonson counties during this time, indicating that diseases such as Ranavirus may be impacting this species in Kentucky. Several breeding sites that were monitored in Edmonson County from 2004-2009 have gone dry before the tadpoles could complete their development – this is not unusual for a species that often uses temporary pools for reproduction but in combination with disease it may contribute to the extirpation of local populations over time (JRM unpublished data).

Habitat / Eastern Spadefoots occur in both open and forested habitats in uplands or
Life bottomlands that have friable sandy to loamy soils. Breeding takes place largely
History in temporary pools – even in low sections of flooded fields – and occasionally in permanent ponds (Hansen 1958, Pearson 1955, Lannoo 2005). At least 2 of the breeding ponds that are being monitored at Mammoth Cave National Park are old constructed farm ponds that were likely present when land for the park was purchased in the 1930's (JRM personal observation). Eggs are attached to submerged or floating vegetation; hatching and larval development periods vary

with temperature but tend to be relatively rapid in comparison with other anurans.

In Kentucky, metamorphs have appeared as early as 30 days after the eggs were laid (JRM personal observation). The Eastern Spadefoot can breed at just about any time from March-October in Kentucky but most breeding takes place from May-July (JRM personal observation). Breeding activity is primarily initiated by heavy rains, and populations at some locations breed very infrequently. One Powell County breeding site was used only twice in seven years. A breeding pond in Edmonson County, on the other hand, was used 4 times in a single year but went dry each time before the tadpoles were able to transform (JRM personal observation).

Key Laurel County (breeding site in a natural vernal pool along KY 192 NE of Baldrock); Edmonson County (Mammoth Cave National Park (several breeding sites continue to be regularly used and likely produce numerous young during some years)).

Guilds Emergent and shrub-dominated wetlands, grassland/agricultural, standing water, upland forest.

Statewide [Eastern Spadefoot.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2E Stream channelization/ditching. Aquatic habitat degradation – especially the

elimination of riparian or floodplain breeding pools due to channelization, conversion to cropland, and development.

- 2F Riparian zone removal (Agriculture/development). Aquatic habitat degradation – especially the elimination of riparian or floodplain breeding pools due to channelization, conversion to cropland, and development.

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5K Lack of suitable habitat for spawning, nesting, or breeding. Breeding ponds that can retain water for 6-8 weeks following heavy rains are not common, and, once lost, are not easily replaced. Complete die-offs of tadpoles from as-yet unidentified diseases have been observed in 2 KY breeding ponds.
- 5L Parasitism and disease. Breeding ponds that can retain water for 6-8 weeks following heavy rains are not common, and, once lost, are not easily replaced. Complete die-offs of tadpoles from as-yet unidentified diseases have been observed in 2 KY breeding ponds.

Miscellaneous Mortality Factors

- 6G Stochastic events (droughts, unusual weather, pine beetle damage, flooding etc.). Once breeding has been initiated by heavy rains, additional rainfall is needed to allow temporary ponds to retain water for a long enough time for tadpole development to be completed. Often such rains never come until too late.

Point and non-point source pollution

- 4E Agricultural runoff – including fertilizers/animal waste, herbicides, pesticides. Temporary ponds in cropland may contain fertilizer and/or pesticides. Seasonal ponds located along paved roads may have high concentrations of deicing salts, oil, etc.
- 4I Runoff from transportation routes (deicing salt, gas, others). Temporary

ponds in cropland may contain fertilizer and/or pesticides. Seasonal ponds located along paved roads may have high concentrations of deicing salts, oil, etc.

Siltation and increased turbidity

- 1F Recreational activities (atv, horseback riding). Although this species sometimes breeds in road ruts created or maintained by ATV use, several natural breeding ponds in eastern Kentucky have seen severe adverse impacts by ATV use as well.

Terrestrial habitat degradation

- 3A Row-crop agriculture (conversion to, annual reuse of fields, etc). Ponds in row crop fields may contain fertilizer and/or pesticides;
- 3F Urban/residential development. Development and surface mining often eliminates and/or contaminates seasonal ponds.
- 3K Surface mining. Development and surface mining often eliminates and/or contaminates seasonal ponds.
- 3P Pollution/toxicity (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, acid rain).
Ponds in row crop fields may contain fertilizer and/or pesticides
- 3R Habitat and/or Population Fragmentation. Development and surface mining often eliminates and/or contaminates seasonal ponds
- 3T Suppression of disturbance regimes. Long-term fire suppression may cause natural and man-made ponds to slowly disappear as basins fill with undecayed leaves and debris.
- 3U Loss, lack and degradation of special and unique microhabitats. Long-term fire suppression may cause natural and man-made ponds to slowly disappear as basins fill with undecayed leaves and debris. development and surface mining often eliminates and/or contaminates seasonal ponds

Unknown factors/variables

7A Unknown threats. Although we have observed tadpole die-offs at 2 breeding ponds in Kentucky, the exact causative agents remain unknown.

CLASS Amphibia

Northern Dusky Salamander

Desmognathus fuscus

Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank	GRank	SRank
Status	Status			(Simplified)	(Simplified)
N	N	G5T5	S5	G5	S5

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend Apparently stable at a rangewide scale, but local declines in Northern Dusky

Comment Salamander populations have been documented in some portions of the range.

Petranka (1998) refers to this salamander as one of the most common species in North America.

The Northern Dusky Salamander occurs in about 19 states in the eastern, Midwestern, and southeastern United States (U.S. Geological Survey/National Amphibian Atlas, accessed 3/15/2010). State heritage programs list this species as S4, S5, or unranked throughout its range as follows: Connecticut (S4), Delaware (S5), District of Columbia (S5), Indiana (S4), Kentucky (S5), Maine (S5), Maryland (S5), Massachusetts (S4S5), New Hampshire (S5), New Jersey (SNR), New York (S5), North Carolina (S5), Ohio (SNR), Pennsylvania (S5), Rhode Island (S4), South Carolina (SNR), Tennessee (S5), Vermont (S5), Virginia (S5), and West Virginia (S5) (NatureServe, accessed 3/11/2010).

Despite this rosy assessment, there appear to be problems in some areas.

Urbanization has wiped out populations in portions of the Midwest and New England (Lannoo 2005); stream scouring [from rapid runoff], siltation, and loss

of ground cover are likely among the major reasons for low densities of this species in urban areas (Petranka 1998). Surface mining has been implicated in the elimination of Northern Dusky Salamanders from many small streams in portions of the Appalachian region (Petranka 1998). “Dusky salamanders are sensitive to stream pollution and siltation. *Desmognathus fuscus* larvae are absent from many streams draining coal strip mines in Kentucky and Tennessee... stream siltation and high metal concentrations appear to be the two primary factors in reducing or eliminating *Desmognathus* from these streams...” (Gore 1983). Perhaps the most disturbing recent report concerning this species has come from Acadia National Park in Maine: “We investigated and reviewed current and historic distribution of Northern Dusky Salamanders in Acadia National Park (ANP)...during 1938-2003. Historical data indicated that Dusky Salamanders were once widespread and common in ANP. We conducted intensive surveys for stream salamanders during 2000-2003 and observed only two adult Northern Dusky Salamanders on one stream. No eggs or larvae were observed...This investigation is the first to document the decline of a stream-dwelling amphibian species in a national park with widespread mercury contamination of its surface waters.” (Bank et al 2006). Another study coauthored by some members of this group (Bank, Crocker, Connery, and Amirbahman 2007) reported high levels of mercury in the tadpoles of green and bullfrogs from several ponds within Acadia National Park. The source of the mercury is believed to be atmospheric deposition from solid waste

the

Northern

frogs

incinerators and other facilities upwind from the park.

S-Trend Decreasing

S-Trend Decreasing in at least some sections of Kentucky. The Northern Dusky

Comment Salamander is being added to the Kentucky Wildlife Action Plan on the basis of documented population declines in the Mammoth Cave National Park region (MacGregor 2007) and large sections of the state impacted by surface mining (i.e. see Gore 1983), and suspected declines in Rowan and Elliott counties in northeastern Kentucky (MacGregor, unpublished data).

Barbour (1971) considered the Northern Dusky Salamander to be an abundant species in the state, writing that "...Nearly every little woodland stream in Kentucky supports a population." Data gleaned from numerous museum collections and biologists' field notes shows that this species has been documented from about 80 Kentucky counties and ranges across the state from the Cumberland River in Livingston, Lyon, and Trigg counties eastward to the Virginia and West Virginia borders. The only large gaps in the Kentucky range are in portions of the Bluegrass Region and Western Coal Field. West of the Cumberland River this species is replaced by the closely-related Spotted Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus conanti*).

has The best-documented decline in the Northern Dusky Salamander in Kentucky

taken place at Mammoth Cave National Park (MCNP), a 70,000-acre block of

land that has seen very little disturbance since the time that much of the area was purchased for protection in the 1930's. Museum specimens and field note records in MCNP files for this salamander from springs and spring-fed creeks within the park date back as far as 1929; many additional collections and observations were made through the 1930's and these salamanders continued to be found in abundance at least until 1961. In the early 1980's, Marilyn Hale, a graduate student at the University of Louisville, conducted an amphibian survey

at

MCNP and was able to document Northern Dusks in very low numbers and at only two locations within the park (Hale 1984). More recently, MacGregor (2007) searched nearly every previously known Northern Dusky Salamander location within the park and was able to locate only a single specimen in a rocky spring in the head of Big Hollow – an area where the species had been seen abundantly in 1961. All of these springs and headwater streams that were surveyed still contain Southern Two-lined Salamanders (*Eurycea cirrigera*), Longtail Salamanders (*E. longicauda*), and Red Salamanders (*Pseudotriton*

ruber)

but the Northern Dusky Salamanders have virtually disappeared. Other serious declines appear to have taken place in the areas near Morehead in northeastern Kentucky but the historic locality data is so vague that good documentation of population changes is difficult. Coal is largely absent from this region and there has been little or no mining activity.

Habitat / Life History Barbour (1971) wrote that: "...they are far more abundant under the stones and logs along small woodland streams...springs and spring runs are commonly inhabited. Information from NatureServe (accessed 3/11/2010) described the habitat as follows: "Rock-strewn woodland streams, seepages, and springs...usually near running or trickling water...hides under leaves, rocks, or other objects in or near water, or in burrows. Eggs are laid near water under moss or rocks, in logs, and in stream-bank cavities. Larval stage usually aquatic."

Northern Dusky Salamanders remain fairly common in many areas in eastern Kentucky where there are rocky woodland streams that have not been severely impacted by coal mining and other mineral extraction activities.

Key Carter County (along Cave Branch at Carter Caves State Resort Park).

Habitat

Guilds Caves, rock shelters, and clifflines, Forested wetland, Running water, Upland forest.

Statewide [Northern Dusky Salamander.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2B Gravel/sand removal or quarrying (e.g., mineral excavation). Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, alteration or loss of springs and seeps, and valley fills. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.

- 2E Stream channelization/ditching. Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, alteration or loss of springs and seeps, and valley fills. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.
- 2F Riparian zone removal (Agriculture/development). Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, alteration or loss of springs and seeps, and valley fills. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.
- 2I Periodic cessation or removal of spring flows or seeps. Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, alteration or loss of springs and seeps, and valley fills. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.
- 2M Valley fills. Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, alteration or loss of springs and seeps, and valley fills. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5H Isolated populations (low gene flow). Biological and consumptive factors likely to be affecting this species in Kentucky include low gene flow between isolated populations (particularly in the Bluegrass Region)
- 5L Parasitism and disease. Biological and consumptive factors likely to be affecting this species in Kentucky include emerging diseases such as chytrid fungus.
- 5O Bait collection. Bait collection may affect local populations but does not seem to be a major factor in the current decline.

Point and non-point source pollution

- 4A Acid mine drainage other coal mining impacts . Impacts to headwater

stream ecosystems from coal mining, oil and gas drilling, and highway runoff (deicing salts, etc.).

4D Oil and gas drilling operations associated runoff. Impacts to headwater stream ecosystems from coal mining, oil and gas drilling, and highway runoff (deicing salts, etc.).

4I Runoff from transportation routes (deicing salt, gas, others). Impacts to headwater stream ecosystems from coal mining, oil and gas drilling, and highway runoff (deicing salts, etc.).

Siltation and increased turbidity

1A Coal mining. Siltation and increased turbidity from coal mining, agriculture, road construction, urbanization, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

1B Agriculture. Siltation and increased turbidity from coal mining, agriculture, road construction, urbanization, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

1C Road construction. Siltation and increased turbidity from coal mining, agriculture, road construction, urbanization, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

1D Urbanization/Development General Construction. Siltation and increased turbidity from coal mining, agriculture, road construction, urbanization, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

1E Silviculture. Siltation and increased turbidity from coal mining, agriculture,

road construction, urbanization, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

- 1F Recreational activities (atv, horseback riding). Siltation and increased turbidity from coal mining, agriculture, road construction, urbanization, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

Terrestrial habitat degradation

- 3J Bridge/Highway construction/maintenance. Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by road construction, – populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost or degraded.

- 3K Surface mining. Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by surface mining – populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost or degraded.

- 3M Timber harvest. Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by timber harvest, become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost or degraded.

- 3P Pollution/toxicity (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, acid rain).
Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by various kinds of water pollution – populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost or degraded.

- 3R Habitat and/or Population Fragmentation. Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by cause populations

become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost or degraded.

- 3U Loss, lack and degradation of special and unique microhabitats. Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by cause populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost or degraded.

Unknown factors/variables

- 7A Unknown threats. They nearly disappeared from springs and spring-fed creeks in the vicinity of Mammoth Cave National Park where they once could be found in abundance. Similar declines are suspected in NE Kentucky. The exact causes of these declines remain unknown.

CLASS Amphibia

Spotted Dusky Salamander

Desmognathus conanti

Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank	GRank	SRank
Status	Status			(Simplified)	(Simplified)
N	N	G5T5	S3	G5	S3

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend Apparently stable on a rangewide scale, but local declines in Spotted Dusky

Comment Salamander populations have been documented in some portions of the range.
At

the present time, the extensive contact zone between the Northern and Spotted Dusky Salamanders has not been thoroughly documented and the ranges of these two very similar species have not been completely worked out in many areas, including southern Illinois (Bonett 2002).

Spotted Dusky Salamanders occur in about 9 states, ranging from extreme southern Illinois (?) and western Kentucky southward and eastward into eastern Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and northwestern Florida (U.S. Geological Survey/National Amphibian Atlas, accessed 3/15/2010). Five state heritage programs within its range list this species as S5 as follows:

Alabama (S5), Georgia (S5), Louisiana (S5), Mississippi (S5), and Tennessee (S5), but it is listed as an S1 species in Arkansas, S2 in Illinois, and S3 in Kentucky and is unranked in Florida (NatureServe, accessed 3/11/2010).

Populations along Crowley's Ridge in eastern Arkansas seem to have disappeared

(Lannoo 2005). Other local populations have been extirpated or reduced as a result of urbanization (near Atlanta, GA – Orser and Shure 1972) and stream siltation and sedimentation due to the effects of construction and farming (Petranka 1998). A recent study completed at Eglin Air Force Base in northwestern Florida (Means and Travis 2007) showed that Spotted Dusky Salamanders had declined in numbers by 68% between an early survey during 1969-1975 and a second survey of the same ravines by the same researcher in 1997-1998. Salamander capture rates in 26 ravines sampled both times fell from 13.56/hour during the initial survey to 4.66/hour during the follow-up study. During the same study, Southern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus auriculatus*) numbers fell from 8.65/hour to 0 – showing total extirpation – while catch per unit effort remained nearly unchanged between the survey periods for both the Southern Two-lined Salamander and Red Salamander. The areas surveyed for salamanders were forested ravines and steepheads that had not been logged or otherwise visibly disturbed between survey periods.

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend The Spotted Dusky Salamander is being added to the Kentucky Wildlife Action

Comment Plan due to its ecological similarity to the Northern Dusky Salamander, its limited

range in our state that includes at least two small, isolated, fragile populations, and the unexplained declines that have occurred in other parts of the range (Crowley’s Ridge in Arkansas and Eglin Air Force Base in Florida).

The Type Locality for the Spotted Dusky Salamander is a small unnamed spring-

fed stream located about 2 miles south of Smithland in Livingston County (Rossman 1958).

Spotted Dusky Salamanders are known from 7 counties in western Kentucky.

The largest populations occur between the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers in Livingston County, at Land Between the Lakes (LBL) in Lyon and Trigg counties,

and in the Blood River drainage in southeastern Calloway County. Additional populations are scattered and isolated; a colony occurs in the Terrapin Creek drainage in Graves County near the Calloway County line; another occupies several small springs near the Tennessee River in northeastern McCracken County; and a small colony occupies seepage habitats near Laketon in Carlisle County. The McCracken County and Carlisle County populations appear to be very vulnerable to extirpation. A formerly healthy population of Spotted Dusky Salamanders inhabiting a spring-fed woodland stream on the west side of LBL was eliminated during the relocation and reconstruction of highway 68/80 during 2008-2009 (JRM, personal observation).

Habitat / Populations in Livingston, Lyon, and Trigg counties occupy small rocky spring-fed creeks in forested habitats. Populations along the Blood River and Terrapin
Life Creek occur in cold springs, seeps, and lowland spring-fed streams along the floodplain in close association with another SWAP species, the Three-lined Salamander (*Eurycea guttolineata*). Extensive logging activity north of Grubbs Road in Calloway County in the mid-2000's resulted in extensive sediment deposits at some downstream locations. The imperiled McCracken County

colony occupies at least 2 small gravelly streams within the city limits of Paducah. The highly imperiled Carlisle County colony occurs in seepage habitat at the base of the loess bluffs bordering the Mississippi River floodplain near Laketon (MacGregor, unpublished data).

Key Generally Good at LBL since Forest Service management will likely maintain

Habitat forest cover along headwater streams. Fair in Blood River area and Terrapin Creek where sites are vulnerable to activities on private lands nearby. Poor in

McCracken and Carlisle counties where colonies are small and isolated.

Guilds Forested wetland, Running water, Upland forest.

Statewide [Spotted Dusky Salamander.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2B Gravel/sand removal or quarrying (e.g., mineral excavation). Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, and alteration or loss of springs and seeps. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.
- 2E Stream channelization/ditching. Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, and alteration or loss of springs and seeps. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.
- 2F Riparian zone removal (Agriculture/development). Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, and alteration or loss of springs and seeps. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.
- 2I Periodic cessation or removal of spring flows or seeps. Degradation of headwater stream habitat by gravel mining, stream channelization, agriculture and development, and alteration or loss of springs and seeps. Adults and aquatic larvae are affected.

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5H Isolated populations (low gene flow). Biological and consumptive factors likely to be affecting this species in Kentucky include low gene flow between isolated populations (particularly in Carlisle, Graves, and McCracken counties)
- 5L Parasitism and disease. Biological and consumptive factors likely to be affecting this species in Kentucky include emerging diseases such as chytrid fungus.
- 5O Bait collection. Bait collection may be affecting some populations but does

not seem to be a major factor in the current decline.

Point and non-point source pollution

4I Runoff from transportation routes (deicing salt, gas, others). Impacts to

headwater stream ecosystems from highway runoff (deicing salts, etc.).

Siltation and increased turbidity

1B Agriculture. Siltation and increased turbidity from agriculture, road construction, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

1C Road construction. Siltation and increased turbidity from agriculture, road construction, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

1E Silviculture. Siltation and increased turbidity from agriculture, road construction, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

1F Recreational activities (atv, horseback riding). Siltation and increased turbidity from agriculture, road construction, timber harvest, and certain recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use. Such activities can smother larvae in headwater streams.

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3J Bridge/Highway construction/maintenance. Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by road construction.

Road construction has recently eliminated an excellent site at LBL.

3M Timber harvest. Terrestrial habitat degradation in areas bordering headwater

- streams, springs, and seeps by timber harvest— populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost or
- 3P Pollution/toxicity (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, acid rain).
Terrestrial habitat degradation bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by road construction, timber harvest, and agricultural runoff – populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost/degraded
- 3R Habitat and/or Population Fragmentation. Terrestrial habitat degradation bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by road construction, timber harvest, and agricultural runoff – populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost/degraded
- 3U Loss, lack and degradation of special and unique microhabitats. Terrestrial habitat degradation bordering headwater streams, springs, and seeps by road construction, timber harvest, and agricultural runoff – populations become fragmented and unique essential microhabitats such as springs and seeps are lost/degraded

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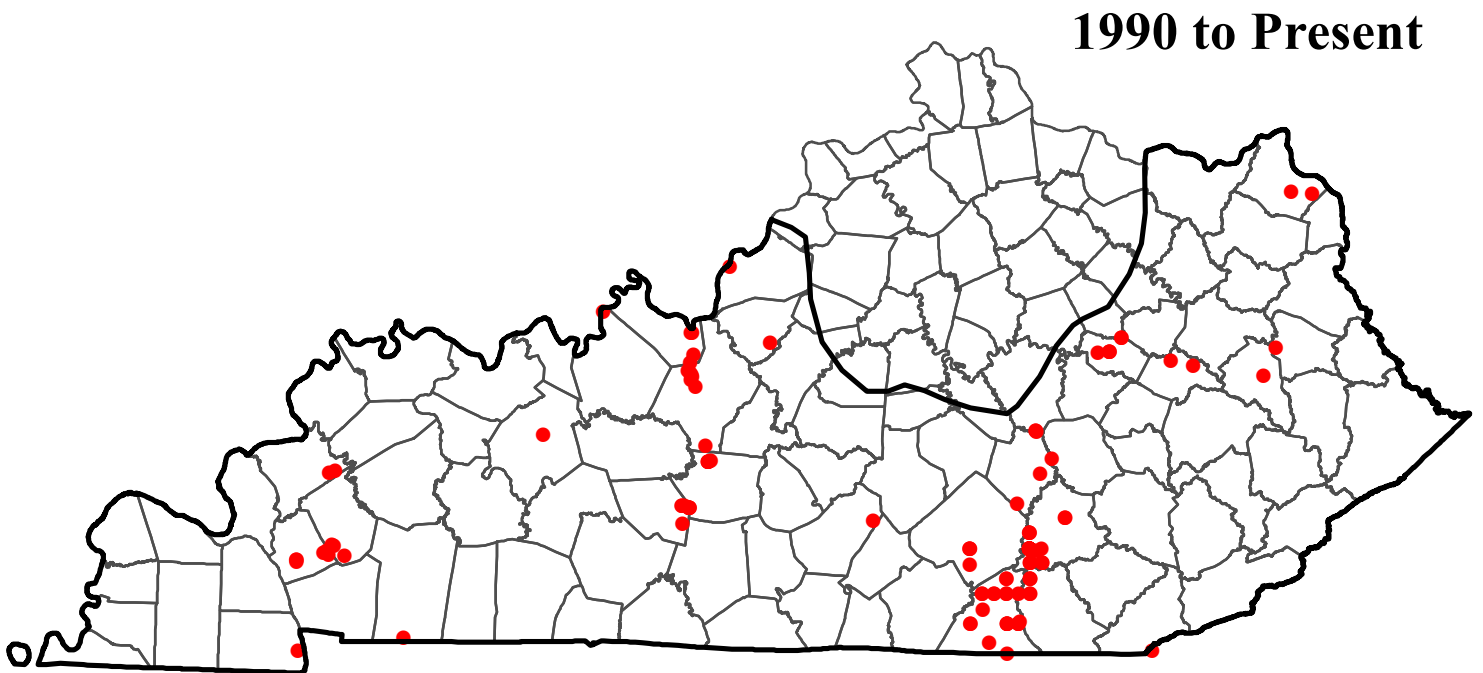
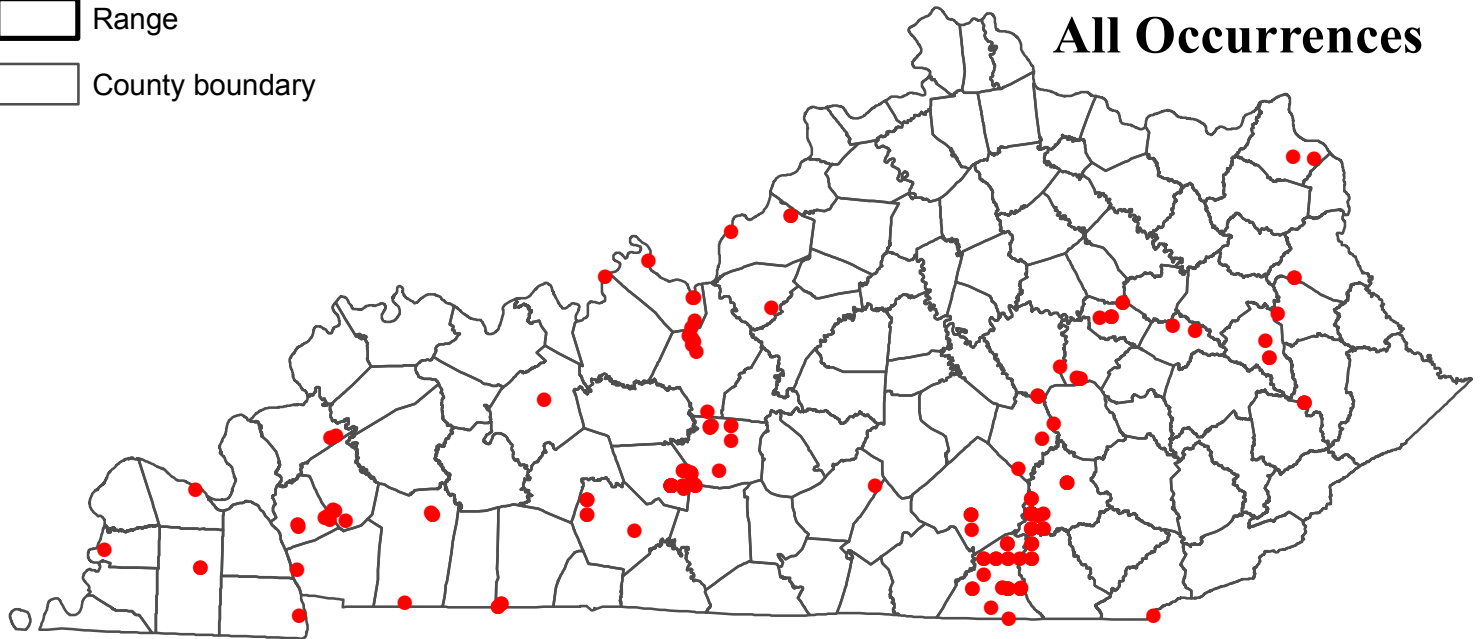
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Eastern Spadefoot

Scaphiopus holbrookii

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Range
- ▭ County boundary

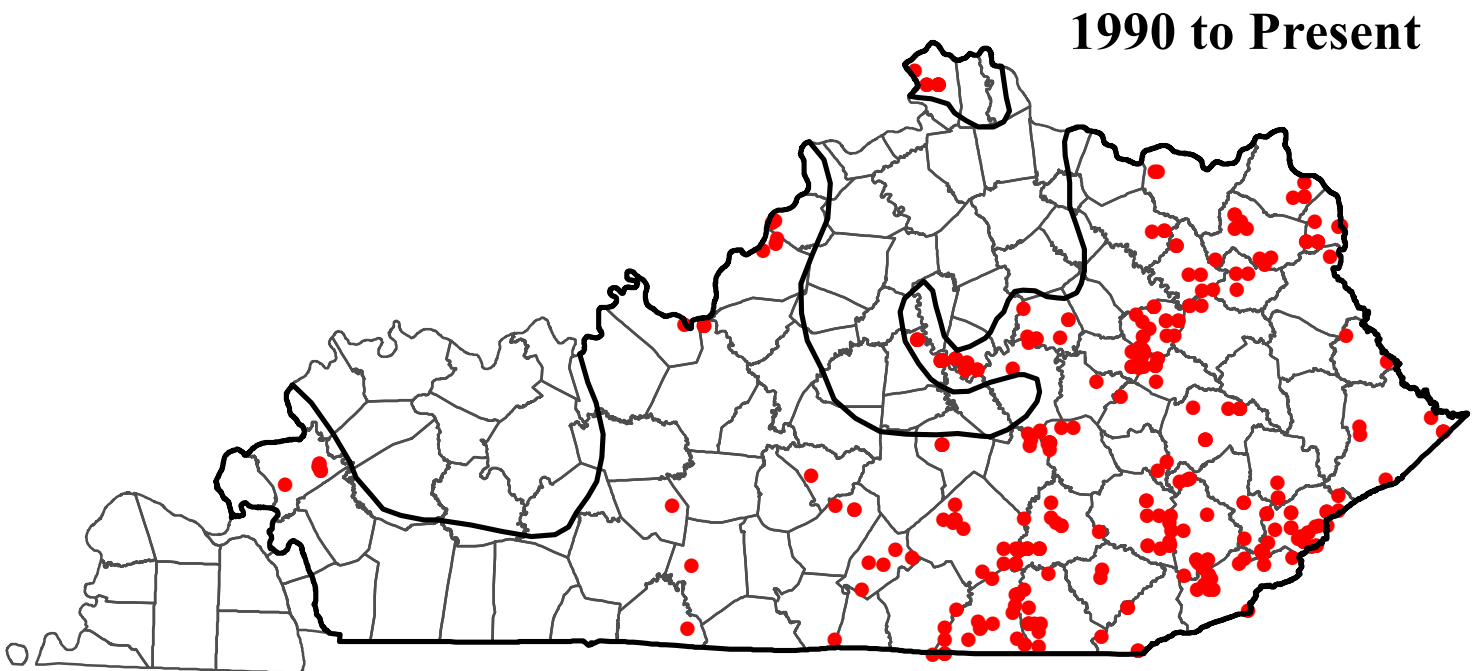
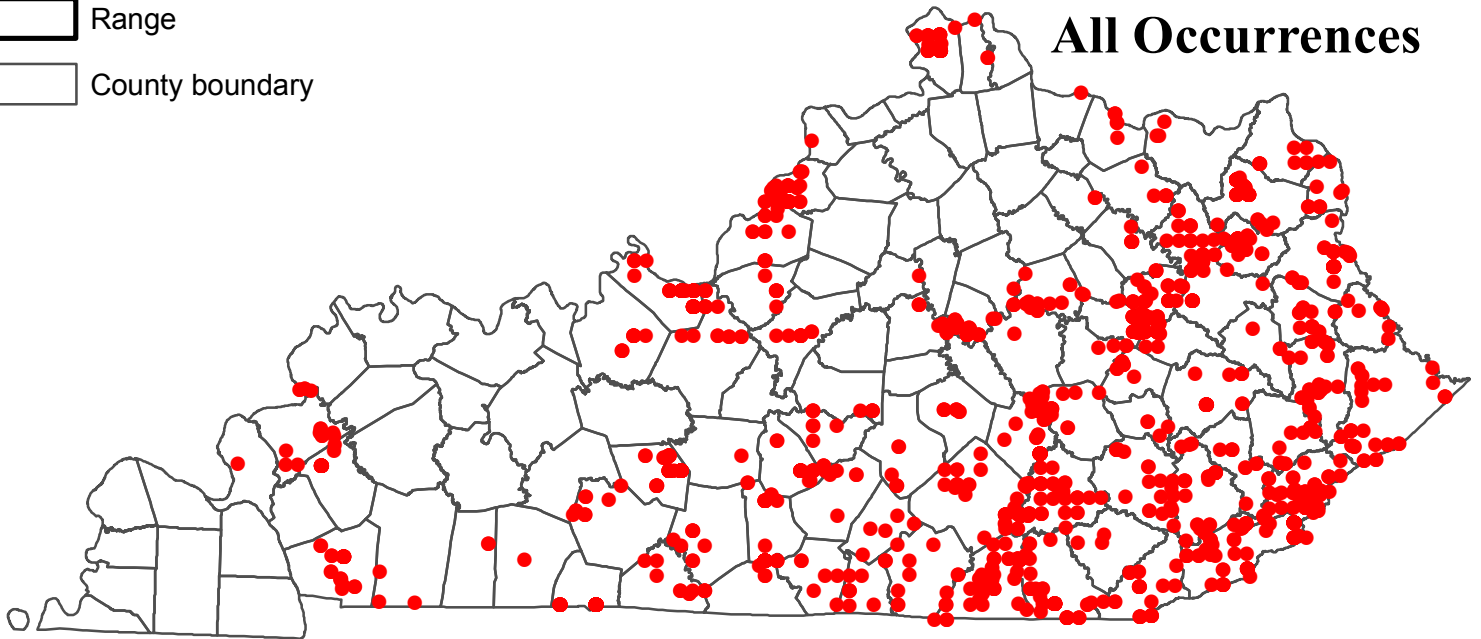


Northern Dusky Salamander

Desmognathus fuscus

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Range
- ▭ County boundary

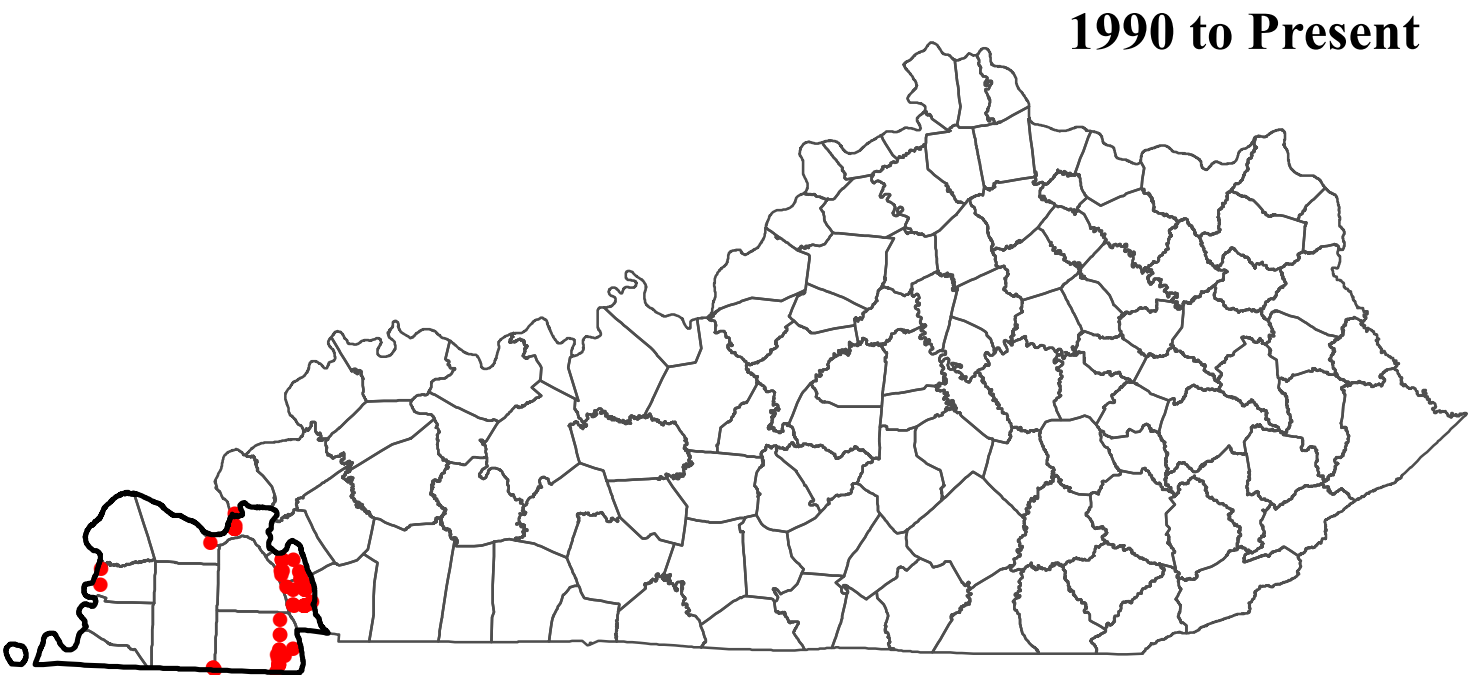
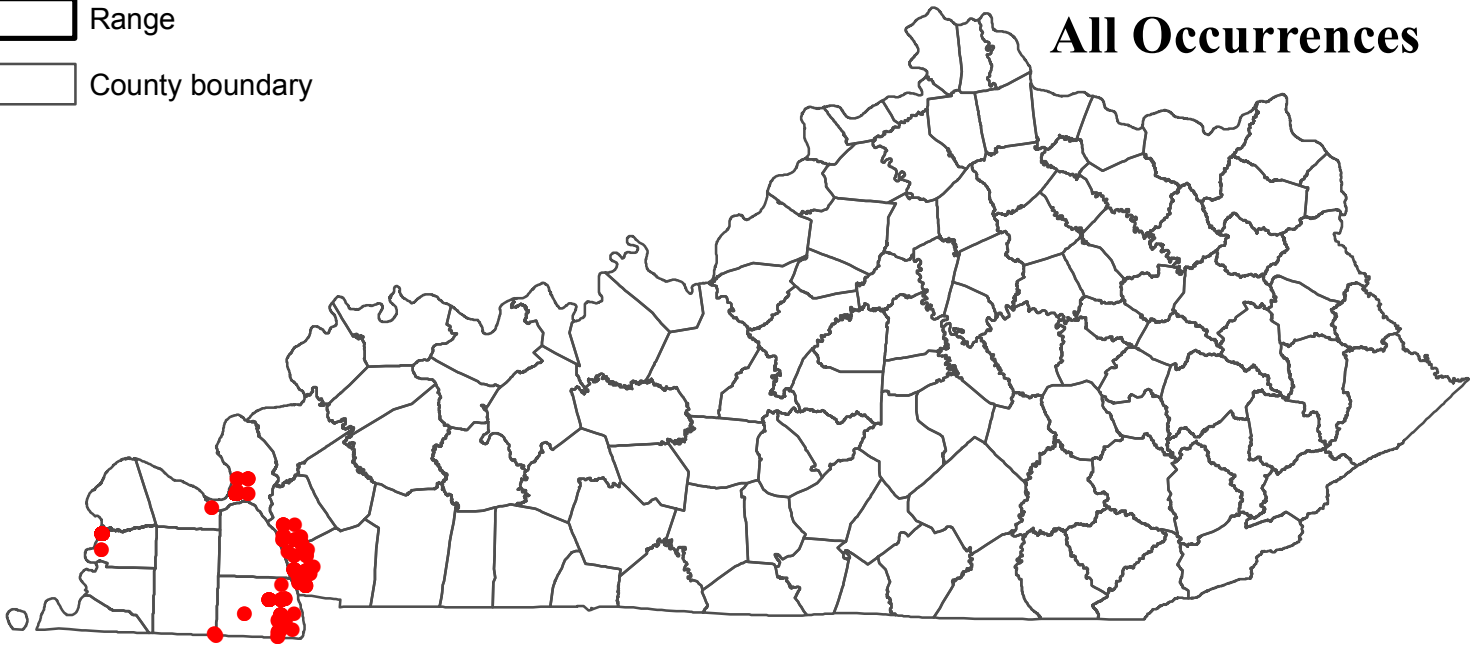


Spotted Dusky Salamander

Desmognathus conanti

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Range
- ▭ County boundary



Kentucky's Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their statuses.

Common name	Scientific name	Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank
Aves (13 species).					
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	N	N	G5	S5
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	PS	N	G5	N
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	N	N	G5	S4
Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	N	N	G5	S4
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	N	N	G5	S2
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	N	N	G5	S4
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	N	N	G5	S4
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	PS	N	G5	N
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	N	N	G5	N
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	N	E	G5	S1
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	N	N	G5	N
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	N	N	G5	S1
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	N	N	G5	S5

[Literature cited](#)

[Download all 13 new 2013 Bird Statewide Maps \(27 MB\)](#)

CLASS Aves

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank	GRank	SRank
Status	Status			(Simplified)	(Simplified)
N	N	G5	S5B,S	G5	S5
			5N		

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend Breeding Bird Surveys show a significant decrease of 0.7% survey-wide for the

Comment period 1966-2007 with a relative abundance of 0.86 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008). An analysis of migration counts of American Kestrels suggest

declines in the northeastern, midwestern and western regions of the continent (Farmer and Smith 2009). Declines have also been documented in monitored populations of kestrels using nest boxes. Related analyses which take into account the timing of disease and predator population increases suggest that causes for decline may be on wintering/migration grounds (Smallwood et al 2009).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend Breeding Bird Surveys in Kentucky show a nonsignificant decrease of 0.6% for

Comment the period 1966-2007 with a relative abundance of 1.63 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008).

Habitat / American Kestrels are usually found in semi-open and open habitats. They are

Life most abundant in rural farmland where they hunt over fields and pastures

History (Palmer-Ball 1996). However, they are also found in native grasslands and altered habitats such as urban areas, city parks, golf courses, industrial parks, and reclaimed surface mines.

Key Habitat condition throughout Kentucky is FAIR for this species.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify: the species will use appropriate habitat statewide.

Guilds grassland/agricultural, urban/suburban.

Statewide [American Kestrel.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5D Competition from introduced/invasive or native species. Competition for cavities with starlings and other species.
- 5K Lack of suitable habitat for spawning, nesting, or breeding. Suitable nest site availability- lack of natural cavities.
- 5Q Declining prey base. Pesticide use, over-grazed pasture and row-cropping.

Terrestrial habitat degradation

- 3A Row-crop agriculture (conversion to, annual reuse of fields, etc). Results in lower prey populations in open habitat.
- 3F Urban/residential development
- 3N Removal of dead trees
- 3S Fire suppression/fire regime management

CLASS Aves

Black-necked Stilt

Himantopus mexicanus

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
PS	N	G5	SAB	G5	N

G-Trend Increasing

G-Trend Breeding Bird Surveys show a significant increase of 3.04% survey-wide for the

Comment period 1966-2007 with a relative abundance of 1.91 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008).

S-Trend Stable

S-Trend Black-necked stilts first nested in Kentucky in 1993. Since that time, they have
Comment nested sporadically in far western Kentucky when proper habitat conditions are present (Palmer-Ball 2003)

Habitat / Life Black-necked stilts generally nest in flooded agricultural fields along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers in western Kentucky. The sporadic nature of this

History flooding means that habitat may not be available in all years (Palmer-Ball personal communication).

Key Habitat condition throughout Kentucky is POOR for this species.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify: the species will use appropriate habitat in western KY.

Guilds standing water.

Statewide [Black-neckedStilt.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2F Riparian zone removal (Agriculture/development)

2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration

Biological/ consumptive uses

5B Predation from native species

Siltation and increased turbidity

1B Agriculture. plowing of nesting areas

CLASS Aves

Black-throated Green Warbler

Dendroica virens

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	S4B	G5	S4

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend Comment The Breeding Bird Survey shows a significant increase of 1.2% survey-wide (USA and Canada) for the period 1980-2007. Partners in Flight estimates a population of 9,600,000 individuals (see Rosenberg 2004 for assumptions).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend Comment Only a limited number of Breeding Bird Survey routes exist in the southeast part of the state; thus, the species is detected only on 5 routes. Analysis of these routes show a nonsignificant increase of 5.4% per year for the period 1966-2007 with an average of 0.95 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008) . Partners in Flight estimates a population of 24,000 individuals (see Rosenberg 2004 for assumptions).

Habitat / Life History Black-throated Green Warblers are typically found in association with hemlock stands, although they are found occasionally in deciduous or mixed pine-hardwood forests. They are most numerous in fairly mature forest, but will also use regenerating second-growth forests and forest edges (Palmer-Ball).

Key Habitat condition in eastern Kentucky range is FAIR.

Habitat

The species will use appropriate habitat in the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains.

Guilds Cumberland highland forest, upland forest.

Statewide [Black_throated_Green_Warbler.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5B Predation from native species
- 5M Brood parasitism (Brown-headed Cowbird)
- 5Q Declining prey base. From insecticides

Miscellaneous Mortality Factors

- 6G Stochastic events (droughts, unusual weather, pine beetle damage, flooding etc.). Potential loss of habitat due to hemlock woolly adelgid infestation.

Terrestrial habitat degradation

- 3G Shoreline development. Riparian corridor removal/development
- 3H Habitat loss outside of Kentucky
- 3K Surface mining. Loss of forest habitat from mining
- 3M Timber harvest
- 3R Habitat and/or Population Fragmentation. Forest fragmentation

CLASS Aves

Chuck-will's-widow

Caprimulgus carolinensis

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	S4S5B	G5	S4

G-Trend Unknown

G-Trend Breeding Bird Surveys show a significant decrease of 1.7% survey-wide for the
Comment period 1966-2007 with a relative abundance of 1.35 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008). Partners in Flight estimates a population of 15,000,000 individuals (see Rosenberg 2004 for assumptions).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend Breeding Bird Surveys in Kentucky show a significant decrease of 2.6% for the
Comment period 1980-2007 (Sauer et al. 2008). Partners in Flight estimates a population of
of 310,400 individuals (see Rosenberg 2004 for assumptions).

Habitat / Life History Chuck-will's-widows are found in semi-open and open habitats with scattered tracts of forest. They are usually absent in extensively forested areas. Found more commonly in drier forests with an open mid- and understory, especially in oak and hickory forests with scattered cedars or introduced pines (Palmer-Ball 1996)..

Key Habitat Habitat conditions in Kentucky are generally FAIR

Key Habitat Locations (and their condition):

1. Will use appropriate habitat mostly west of the Cumberland Plateau.

Guilds grassland/agricultural, savanna/ shrub-scrub, upland forest.

Statewide [Chuck Wills Widow.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Biological/ consumptive uses

5Q Declining prey base. Pesticide use

Miscellaneous Mortality Factors

6A Traffic/road kills

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3F Urban/residential development

3P Pollution/toxicity (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, acid rain).

Pesticides

CLASS **Aves**

Greater Scaup

Aythya marila

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	S2S3N	G5	S2

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend Populations of both scaup species have seen dramatic declines in recent years.

Comment Breeding numbers of scaup have declined 35% from 6.4 million in 1980 to 4.2 million in 2009 (U.S, Fish and Wildlife Service 2009). Reasons for these declines are still largely not understood.

S-Trend Decreasing

S-Trend Little data exists on wintering populations of scaup. Mid-winter waterfowl

Comment survey data indicates a 85% decline in the 10-year average (USFWS unpublished data)

Habitat / Life Scaup are generally open water birds being found in large reservoirs and Rivers statewide.

History

Key Habitat condition throughout Kentucky are GOOD for this species.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify: the species will use appropriate habitat statewide.

Guilds Large rivers in current, Large rivers in slackwater.

Statewide [GreaterScaup.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2E Stream channelization/ditching

2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration

Biological/ consumptive uses

5L Parasitism and disease

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3G Shoreline development

3P Pollution/toxicity (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, acid rain)

CLASS Aves

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	S4N	G5	S4

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend Populations of both scaup species have seen dramatic declines in recent years.

Comment Breeding numbers of scaup have declined 35% from 6.4 million in 1980 to 4.2 million in 2009 (U.S, Fish and Wildlife Service 2009). Reasons for these declines are still largely not understood.

S-Trend Decreasing

S-Trend Little data exists on wintering populations of scaup. Mid-winter waterfowl

Comment unpublished survey data indicates a 85% decline in the 10-year average (USFWS data)

Habitat / Life Scaup are generally open water birds being found in large reservoirs and Rivers statewide.

History

Key Habitat condition throughout Kentucky is GOOD for this species.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify: the species will use appropriate habitat statewide.

Guilds Large rivers in current, Large rivers in slackwater.

Statewide [LesserScaup.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2E Stream channelization/ditching

2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration

Biological/ consumptive uses

5L Parasitism and disease

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3G Shoreline development

3P Pollution/toxicity (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, acid rain)

CLASS Aves

Ruffed Grouse

Bonasa umbellus

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	S4	G5	S4

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend “The ruffed grouse is a popular gamebird distributed from Alaska across central

Comment and southern Canada and the northern United States to the Atlantic Coast, south into the central Rocky Mountains and Appalachian Mountains. Its distribution coincides closely with that of aspen, except in the Appalachians. Throughout most of the range of the ruffed grouse, aspen is considered a key component of ruffed grouse diet and cover. Limited research conducted in the Appalachian region suggested ruffed grouse ecology and thus potential management differ greatly between the core of the species range (i.e., the Great Lakes and southern Canada region) and the Appalachian Mountains due at least in part to the

absence

of aspen. Breeding bird survey data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service show a significant decline in ruffed grouse indices over the last 35 years in both the Ridge and Valley and Alleghany Plateau regions of the Appalachians. These declines coincide with those of other early-successional bird species, and may be in part a result of changes in forest age over the last 35 years.” Devers et a. 2008

S-Trend Decreasing

S-Trend Grouse populations in the Appalachian region have been declining for several decades. Habitat loss is a major cause in these declines, largely due to limited timber harvests and long timber rotations resulting in vast acreages of mature timber.

The Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project (ACGRP) was a multi-state cooperative effort initiated in 1996 to investigate the apparent decline of ruffed grouse and improve management throughout the central and southern Appalachian region (i.e., parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, USA) (Devers et al. 2008).

Habitat / Life History Grouse populations in the Appalachian region have been declining for several decades. Habitat loss is a major cause in these declines, largely due to limited timber harvests and long timber rotations resulting in vast acreages of mature timber (Whitaker 2003).

The Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project (ACGRP) was a multi-state cooperative effort initiated in 1996 to investigate the apparent decline of ruffed grouse and improve management throughout the central and southern Appalachian region (i.e., parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, USA) (Devers et al. 2007).

Key Habitat condition is generally POOR for Kentucky.

Habitat

Guilds Cumberland highland forest, savanna/ shrub-scrub, upland forest.

Statewide [Ruffed Grouse.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Biological/ consumptive uses

5B Predation from native species

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3C Lack of newly abandoned farmland

3M Timber harvest. Lack of timber harvest

3O Reforestation. Lack of early-successional forest

3R Habitat and/or Population Fragmentation

3S Fire suppression/fire regime management. Limited use of controlled burning
as a management tool

3T Suppression of disturbance regimes. Limited timber harvests = even-aged
forests

3V Long-term loss of hard mast trees (American Chestnut, poor oak)

CLASS Aves

Sandhill Crane

Grus canadensis

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
PS	N	G5	SZN	G5	N

G-Trend Increasing

G-Trend The eastern population of sandhill cranes, which migrates through and winters in Kentucky, has increased significantly since USFWS Fall surveys began in 1979. Survey numbers increased from 14,385 in 1979 to 59,876 in 2009 (USFWS unpublished data).

S-Trend Increasing

S-Trend Wintering/transient numbers are increasing. Winter counts reached their highest levels in Feb 2010 with almost 19,000 birds in two groups in the state (KDFWR unpublished data)

Habitat / night Wintering/migrating sandhill cranes roost in shallow water (<20cm deep) at night

Life feeding and feed in waste grain fields during the day. Corn stubble is the preferred

History site (Tacha et al. 1994)

Key Habitat condition throughout Kentucky is FAIR for this species.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify: the species will use appropriate habitat in the central portion of the state..

Guilds Emergent and shrub-dominated wetlands, grassland/agricultural.

Statewide [SandhillCrane.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2F Riparian zone removal (Agriculture/development)

2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration

Miscellaneous Mortality Factors

6C Powerlines

6D Human disturbance (spelunking, destruction/disturbance of nest sites)

Siltation and increased turbidity

1B Agriculture. impacts on shallow roost ponds

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3D Switch to cleaner agricultural practices

CLASS Aves

Sora

Porzana carolina

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	SZN	G5	N

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend Breeding Bird Surveys show a nonsignificant increase of 0.9% survey-wide for
Comment the period 1966-2007 with a relative abundance of 1.04 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend No data exists for migrating Sora Rails.

Comment

Habitat / Sora rails inhabit stands of emergent vegetation within freshwater wetlands.

Life Shallow water, emergent cover, and substrate with high invertebrate abundance

History are the most important components of rail habitat (Melvin and Gibbs 1994).
High

interspersion of water to and emergent vegetation are important. Sora rails avoid emergent stands with high stem densities and seem to select larger size wetlands (Melvin and Gibbs 1994).

Key Habitat condition throughout Kentucky is FAIR for this species.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify: the species will use appropriate habitat statewide.

Guilds Emergent and shrub-dominated wetlands.

Statewide [Sora.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3Q Invasive/exotic plants (including fescue). Phragmites invasion

CLASS Aves

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	E	G5	S1B	G5	S1

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend Breeding Bird Surveys show a significant decrease of 0.81% survey-wide for the period 1966-2007 with a relative abundance of 0.48 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend The spotted sandpiper is a rare and sporadic breeding bird in Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 1996) but no survey data exists for the species in the state.

Habitat / Life History Spotted sandpipers utilize a wide variety of wetland habitats statewide from stream and river shorelines, to shores of ponds and large reservoirs, to managed shallow water impoundments (Palmer-Ball 1996). For nesting, spotted sandpipers generally nest in disturbance free areas of thick vegetation close to exposed shorelines, but may nest some distance from water in pastures (Palmer-Ball 1996).

Key Habitat condition throughout Kentucky is FAIR for this species.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify: the species will use appropriate habitat statewide.

Guilds Emergent and shrub-dominated wetlands, Lowland Streams in slackwater.

Statewide [SpottedSandpiper.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2E Stream channelization/ditching

Biological/ consumptive uses

5F Low population densities

Siltation and increased turbidity

1B Agriculture

CLASS Aves

Tundra Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	SZN	G5	N

G-Trend Increasing

G-Trend Breeding populations have increased during the period 1980 -2009. Populations

Comment have increased 25% from 164,500 in 1980 to 205,400 in 2009 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009).

S-Trend Stable

S-Trend Little evidence exists for abundance of wintering populations in Kentucky.

Comment Christmas Bird Count data has recorded Tundra Swans in 5 years since 1980.

Habitat / Life This is a wintering bird that uses shallow water wetlands with submerged vegetation (poor) as well as larger lakes, rivers, and ponds (good).

History

Key Habitat Habitat condition ranges from POOR (shallow water wetlands) to GOOD (large lakes, rivers, and ponds).

available No key habitat to identify; the species will use appropriate habitat where statewide.

Guilds Emergent and shrub-dominated wetlands, grassland/agricultural, standing water.

Statewide [TundraSwan.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2E Stream channelization/ditching

2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration . Draining of shallow water wetlands

Biological/ consumptive uses

5D Competition from introduced/invasive or native species. introduced mute swans and resident Canada geese

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3A Row-crop agriculture (conversion to, annual reuse of fields, etc). of shallow water wetlands

3G Shoreline development

3H Habitat loss outside of Kentucky

CLASS Aves

Virginia Rail

Rallus limicola

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	S1B?, SZN	G5	S1

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend Little data exists for population trends in the secretive marsh birds. The best

Comment piece of information for Virginia rails is the Breeding Bird Survey . Breeding Bird

Surveys show an increase of 2.16% survey-wide for the period 1967-2007 with a relative abundance of 0.04 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008).

Unfortunately, the BBS is not designed to detect marsh birds so data is lacking.

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend No data exists.

Comment

Habitat / Virginia rails inhabit stands of emergent vegetation within freshwater wetlands.

Life Shallow water, emergent cover, and substrate with high invertebrate abundance

History are the most important components of Virginia rail habitat (Conway and Eddleman 1994). Moderate water to cover ratios are important. Virginia rails avoid emergent stands with high stem densities and seem to select larger size wetlands (Conway and Eddleman 1994).

Key Habitat conditions in Kentucky are likely FAIR.

Habitat

No key habitat to identify; the species will use appropriate habitat range wide.

Guilds Emergent and shrub-dominated wetlands.

Statewide [VirginiaRail.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration . Wetland Losses

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3Q Invasive/exotic plants (including fescue). Phragmites monocultures in wetlands

CLASS Aves

Whip-poor-will

Caprimulgus vociferus

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G5	S5B	G5	S5

G-Trend Unknown

G-Trend Comment Breeding Bird Surveys show a significant decrease of 2.1% survey-wide for the period 1966-2007 with a relative abundance of 0.25 individuals per route (Sauer et al. 2008). Partners in Flight estimates a population of 2,100,000 individuals (see Rosenberg 2004 for assumptions).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend Comment Breeding Bird Surveys in Kentucky show a nonsignificant decrease of 2.3% for the period 1980-2007 (Sauer et al. 2008). Breeding Bird Surveys in Kentucky Partners in Flight estimates a population of 86,200 individuals (see Rosenberg 2004 for assumptions).

Habitat / Life History Whip-poor-wills are found in areas with greater forest cover than Chuck-will's-widows and in a greater range of habitats, from mesic slopes to subxeric, upland forests. They are found more commonly in disturbed forests and forest edges where they can forage in openings for insect prey (Palmer-ball 1996).

Key Habitat conditions in Kentucky are likely FAIR.

Habitat No key habitat to identify; the species will use appropriate habitat range wide.

Guilds grassland/agricultural, savanna/ shrub-scrub, upland forest.

Statewide [Whip_poor_will.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Biological/ consumptive uses

5Q Declining prey base. Pesticide Use

Miscellaneous Mortality Factors

6A Traffic/road kills

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3A Row-crop agriculture (conversion to, annual reuse of fields, etc).

Conversion of forests to agriculture

3F Urban/residential development

3M Timber harvest

3P Pollution/toxicity (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, acid rain).

Pesticides

3R Habitat and/or Population Fragmentation

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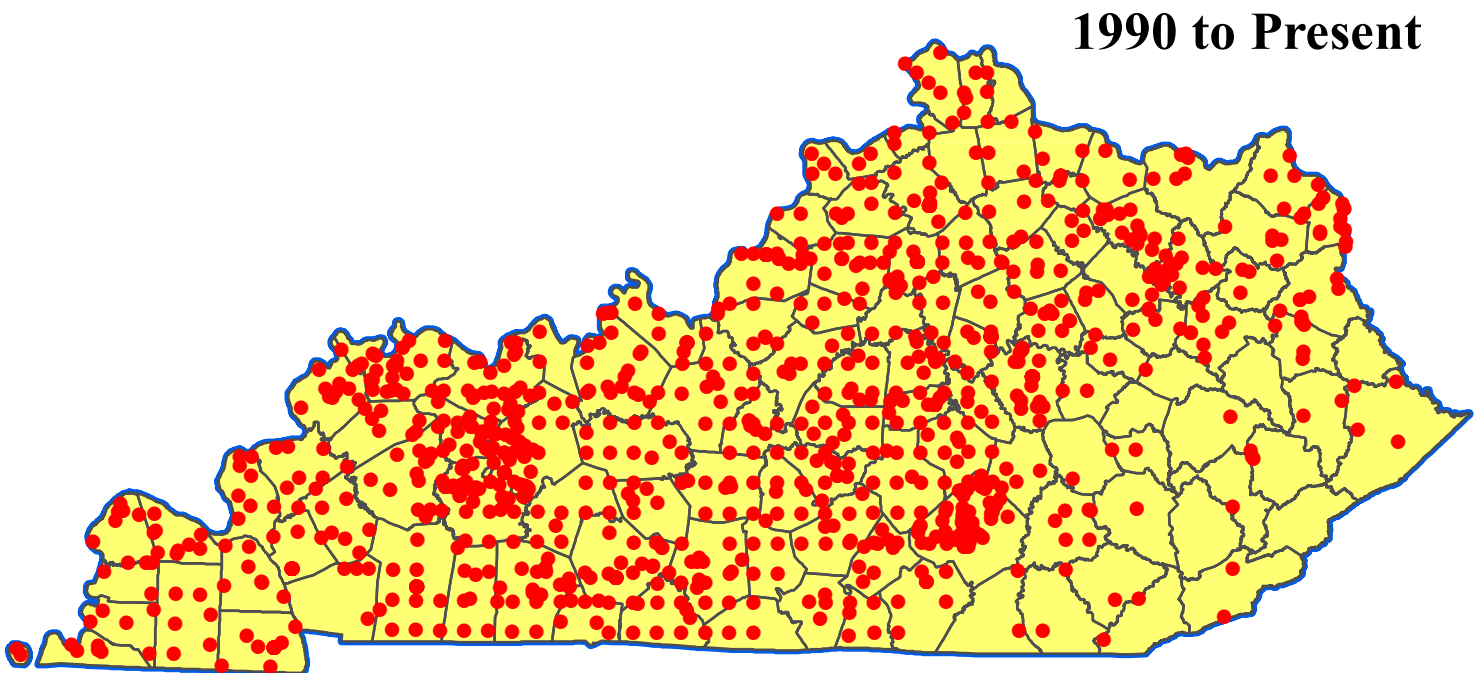
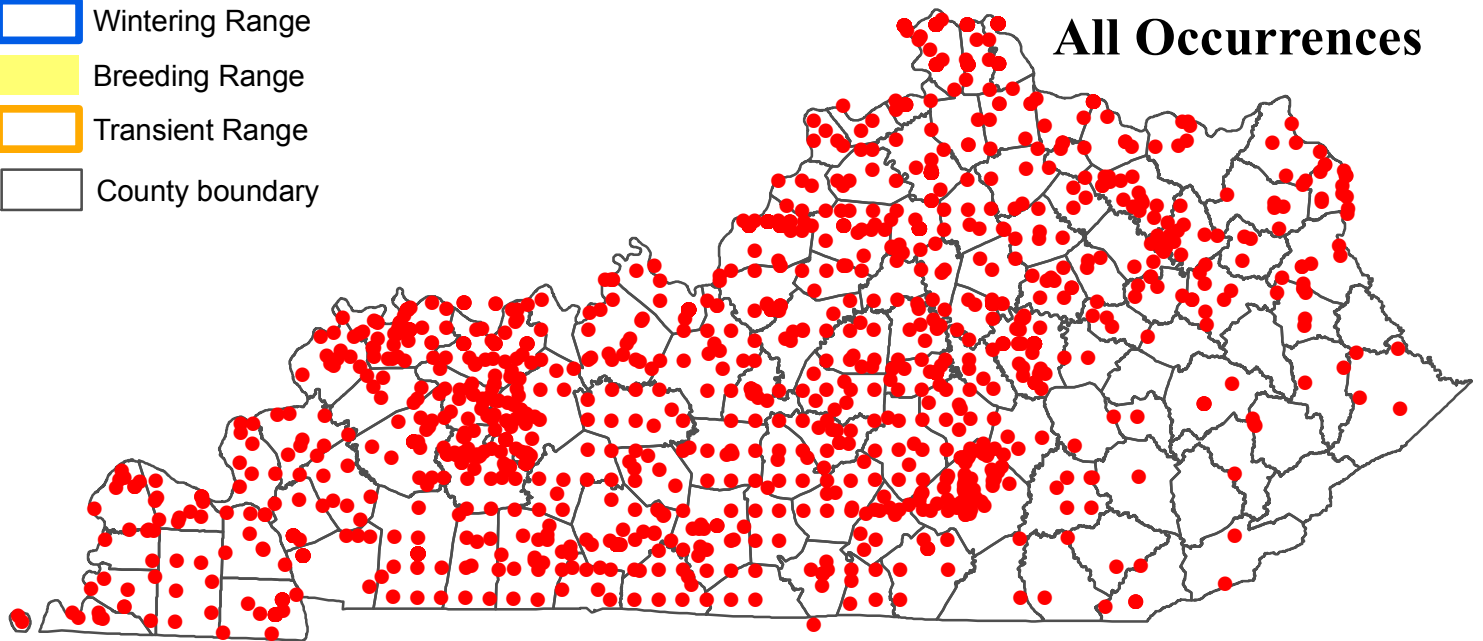
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American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

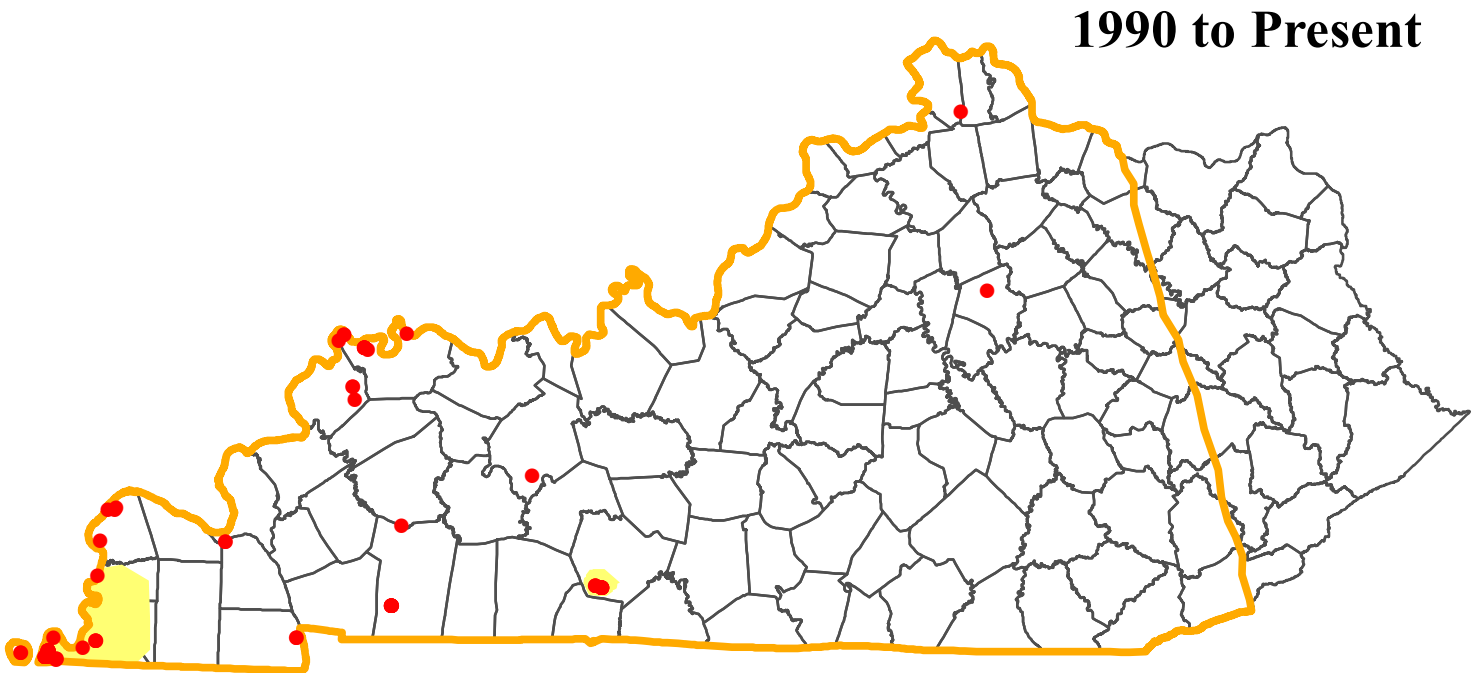
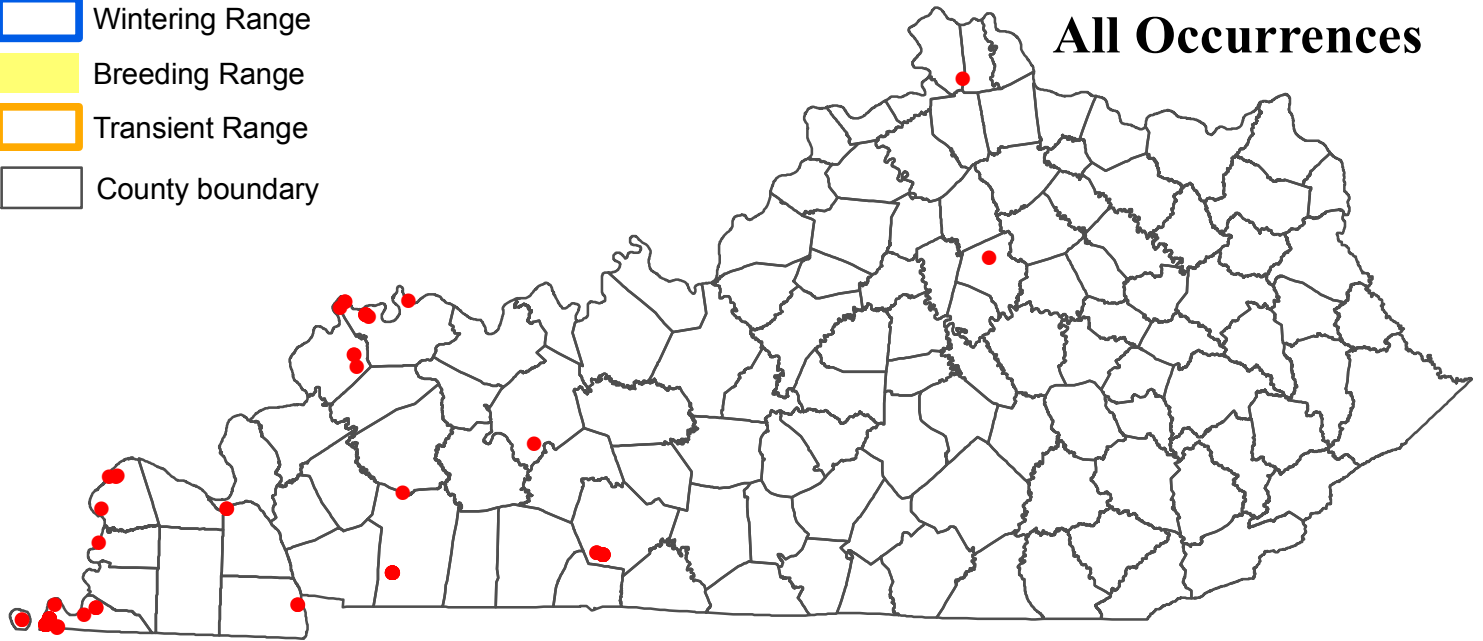


Black-necked Stilt

Himantopus mexicanus

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

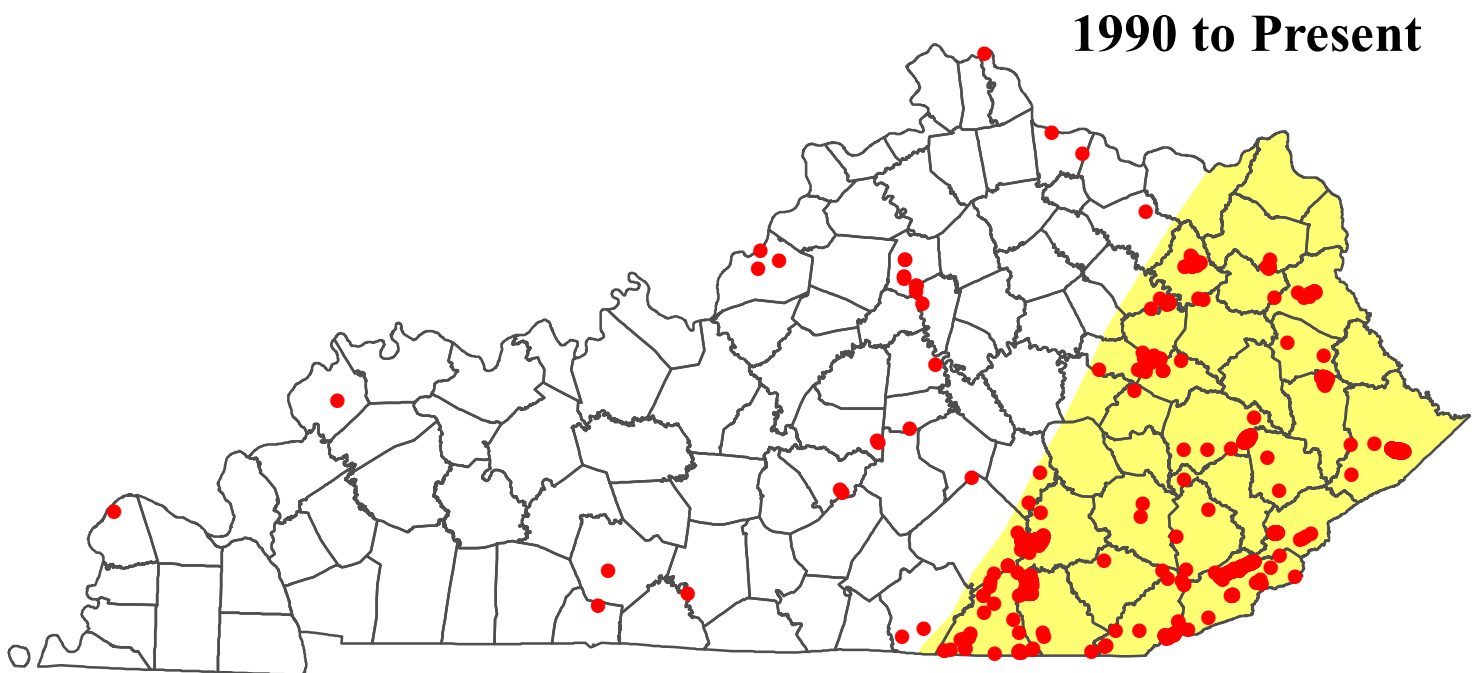
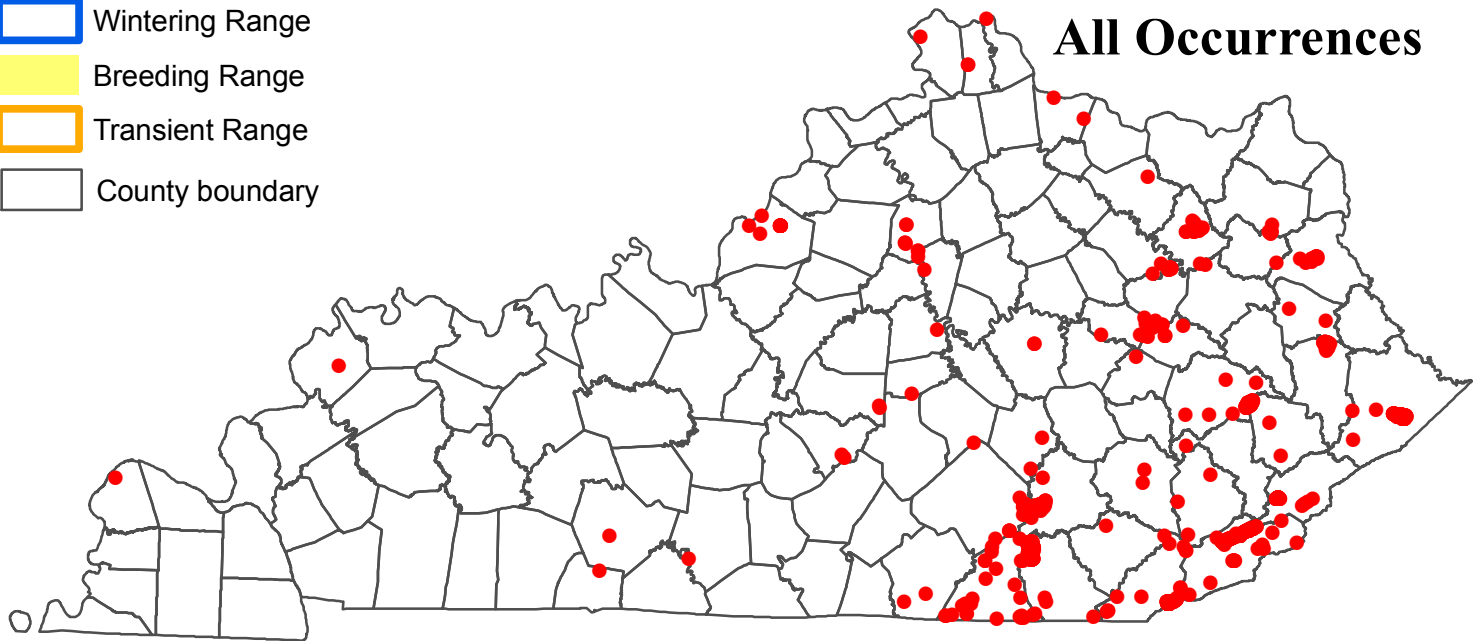


Black-throated Green Warbler

Dendroica virens

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary



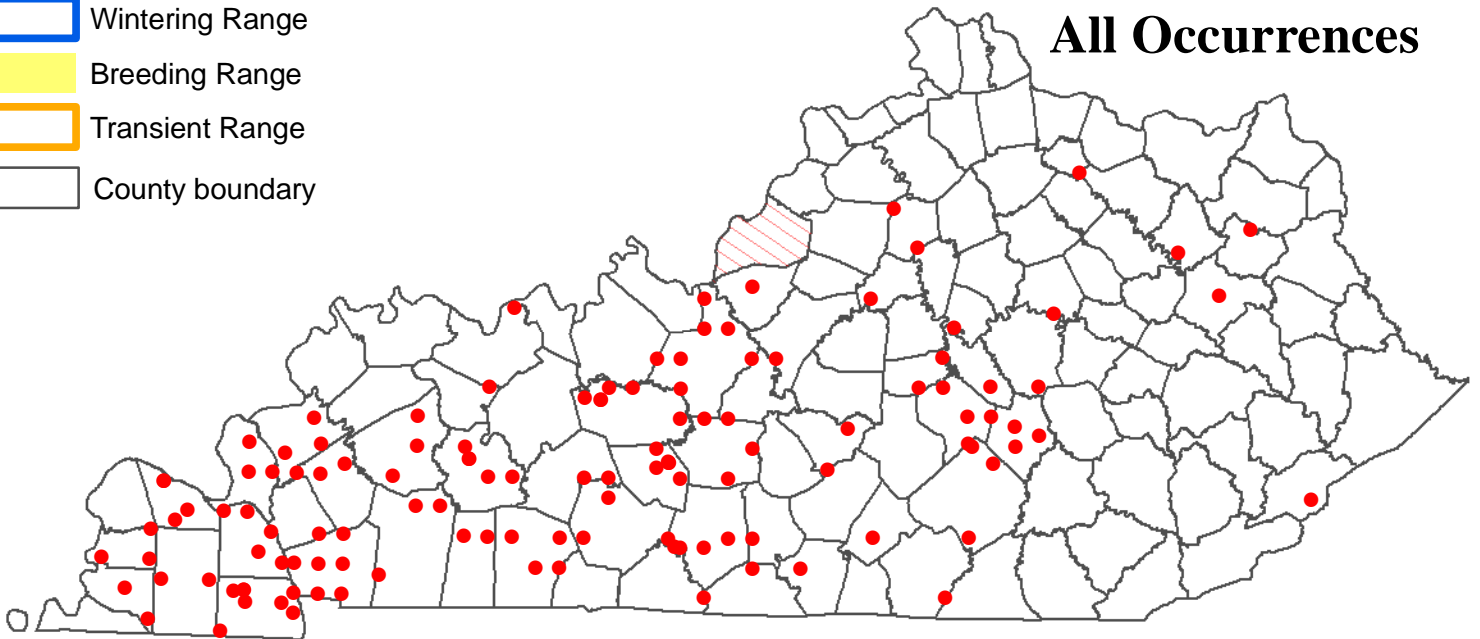
Chuck-will's-widow

Caprimulgus carolinensis

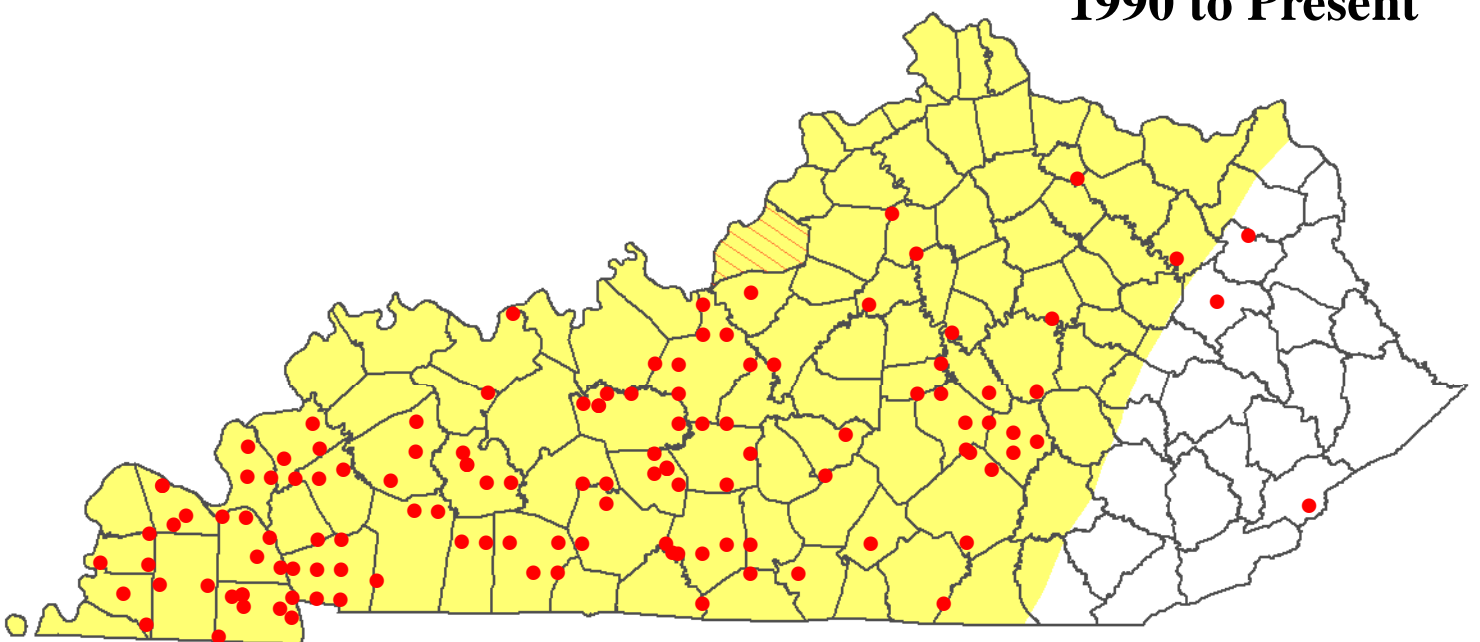
(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Wintering Range
- Breeding Range
- Transient Range
- County boundary

All Occurrences



1990 to Present

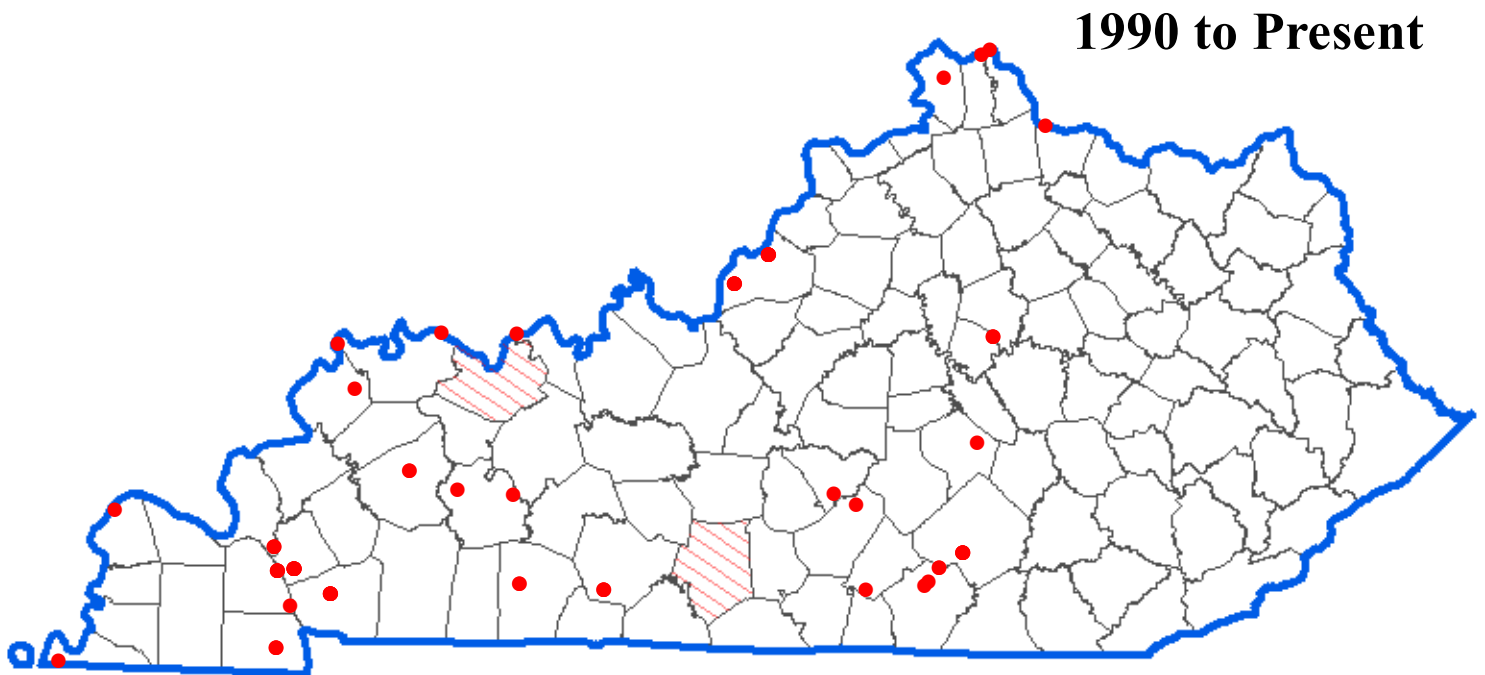
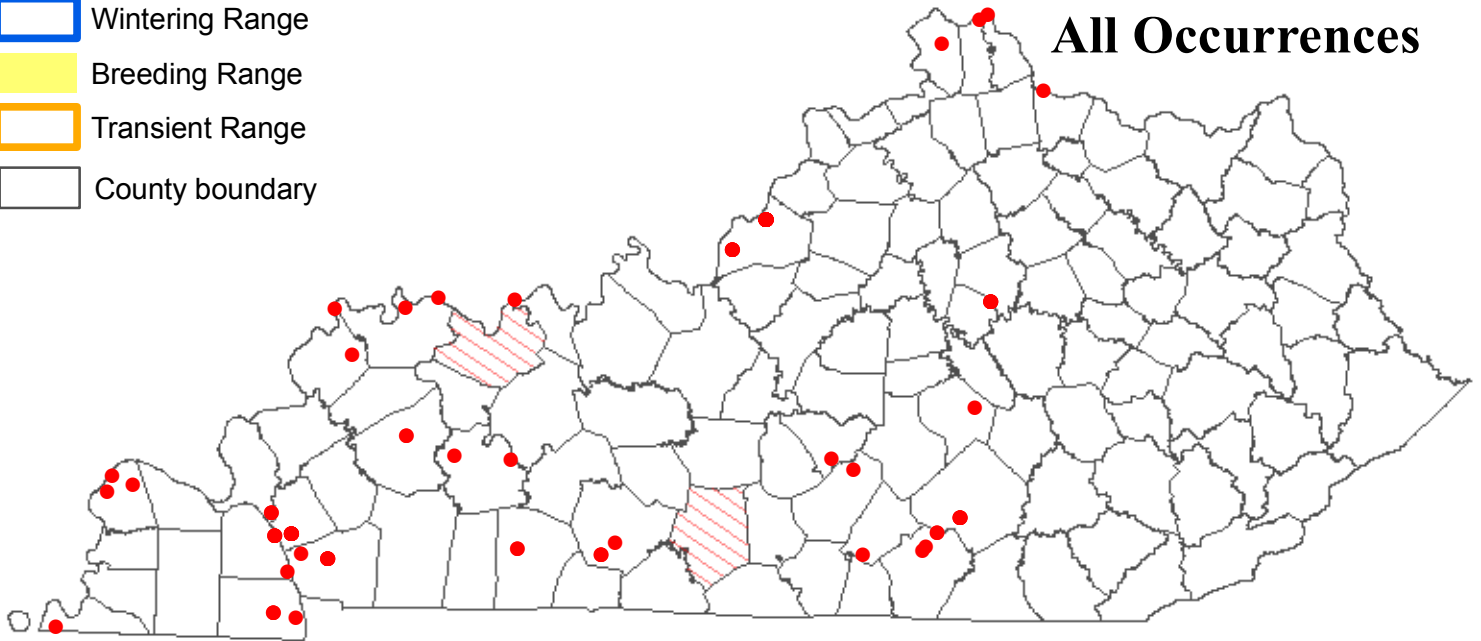


Greater Scaup

Aythya marila

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

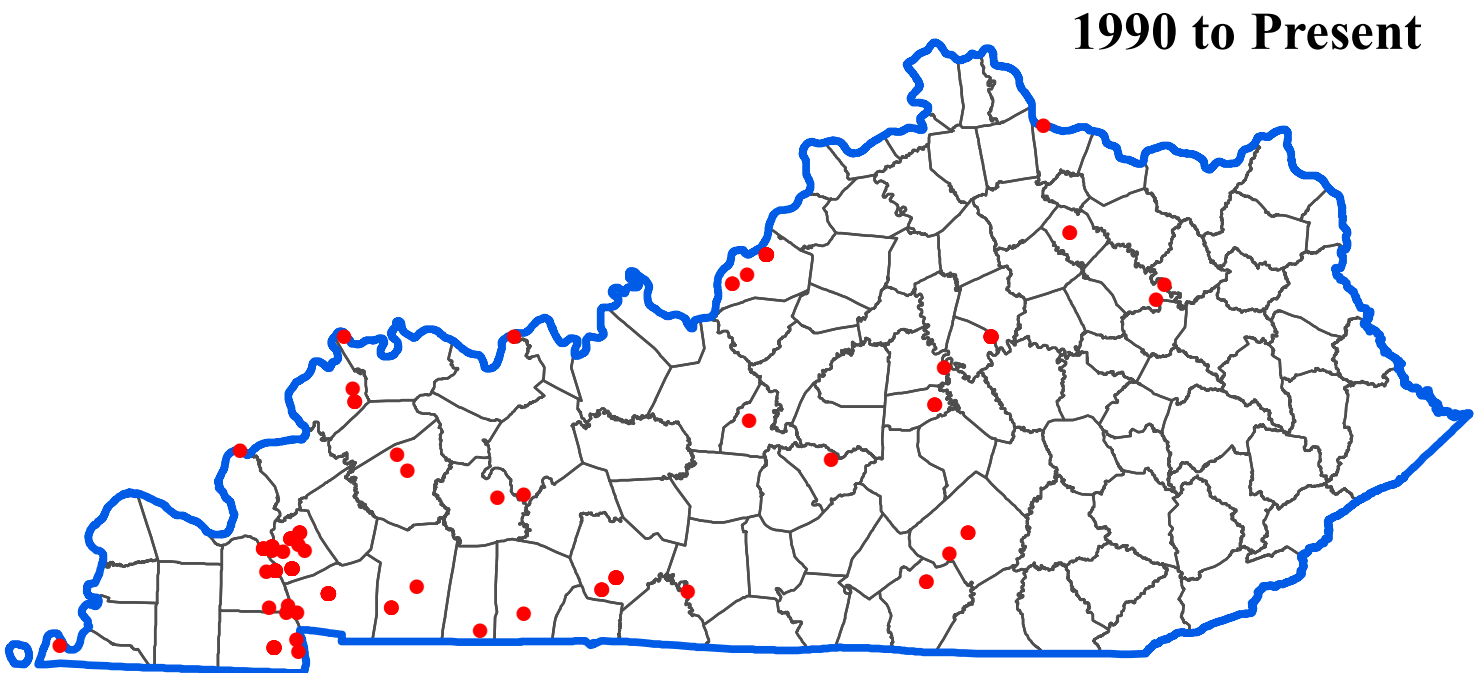
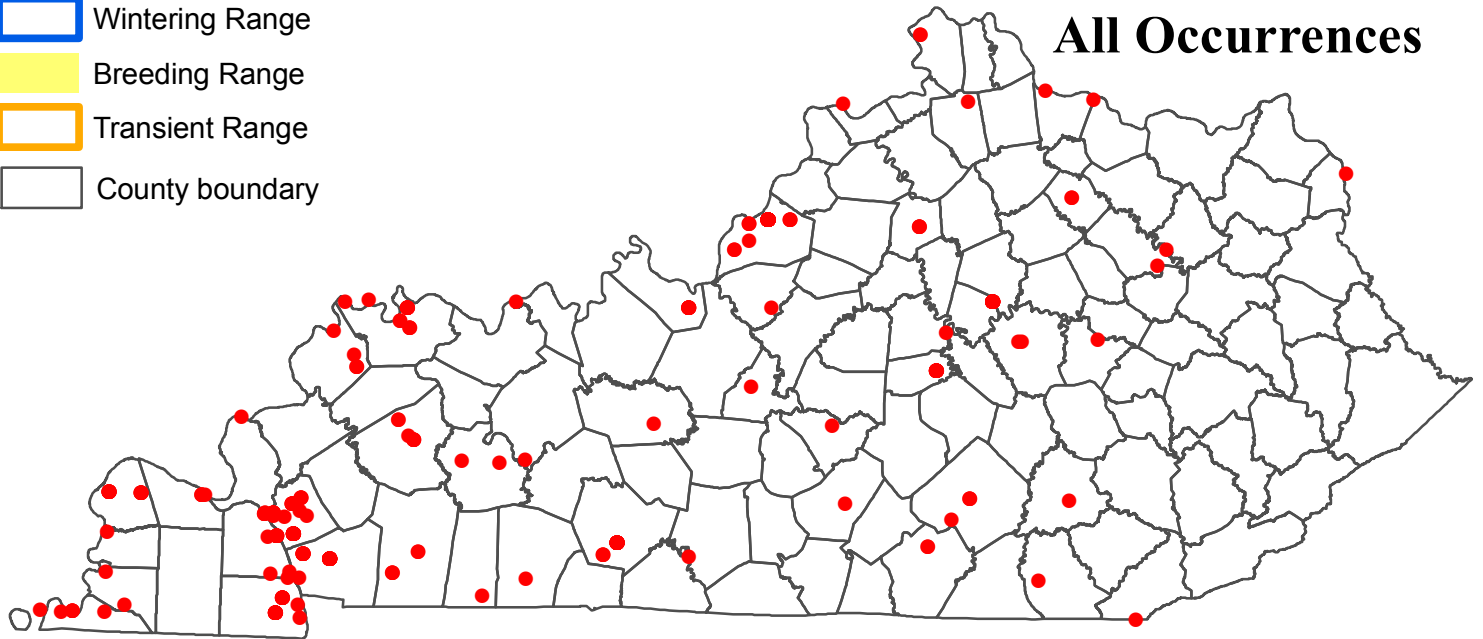


Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

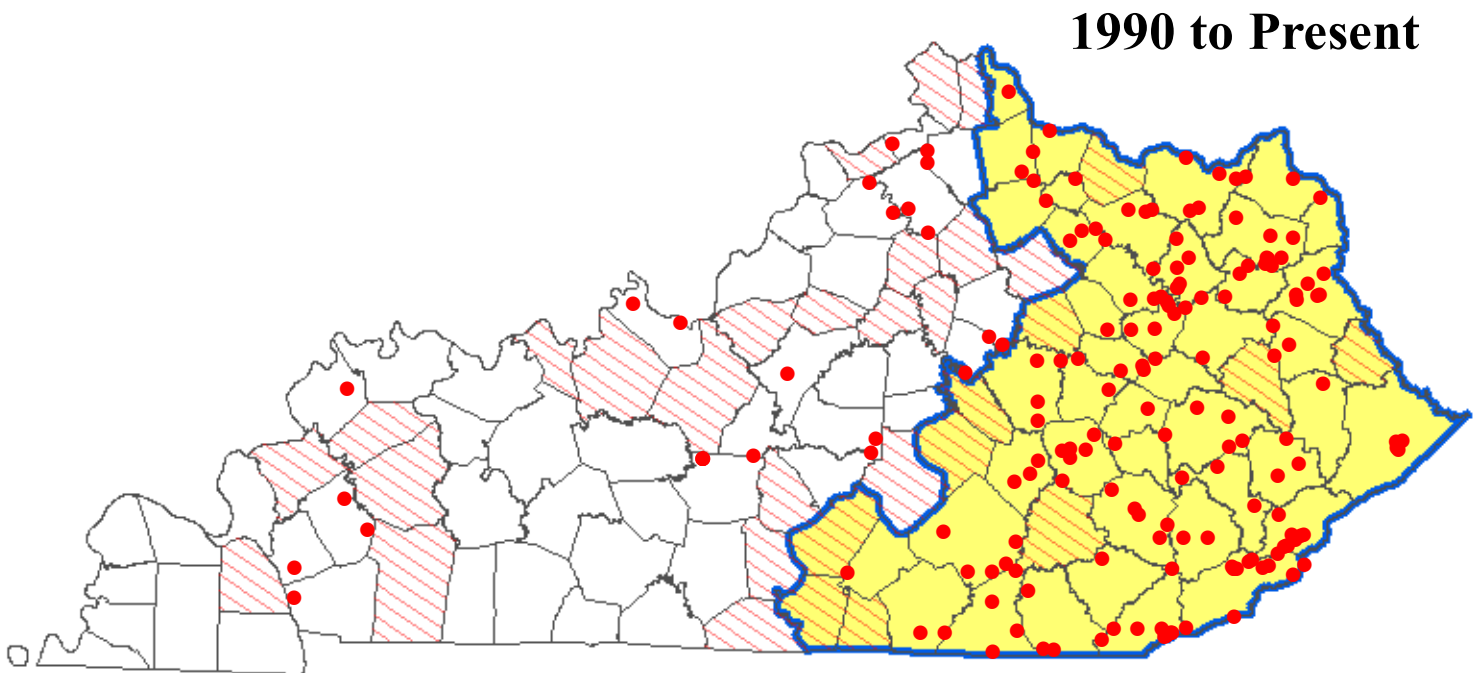
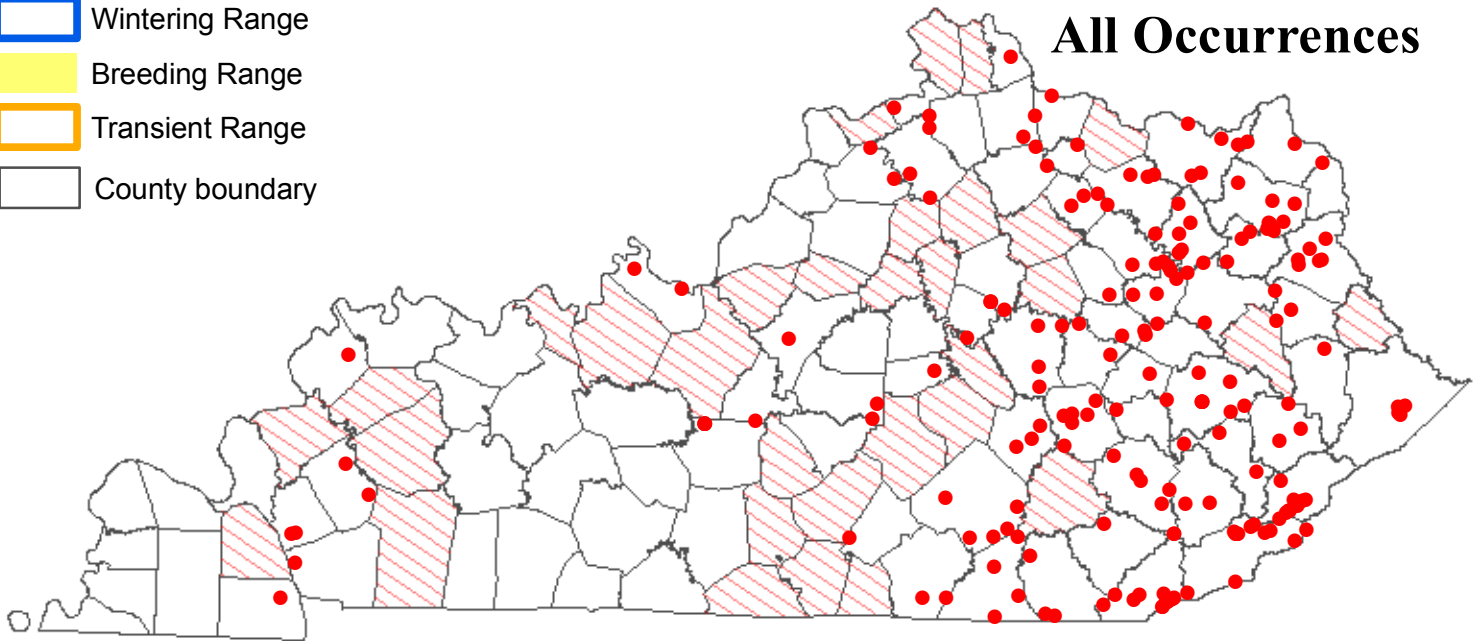


Ruffed Grouse

Bonasa umbellus

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

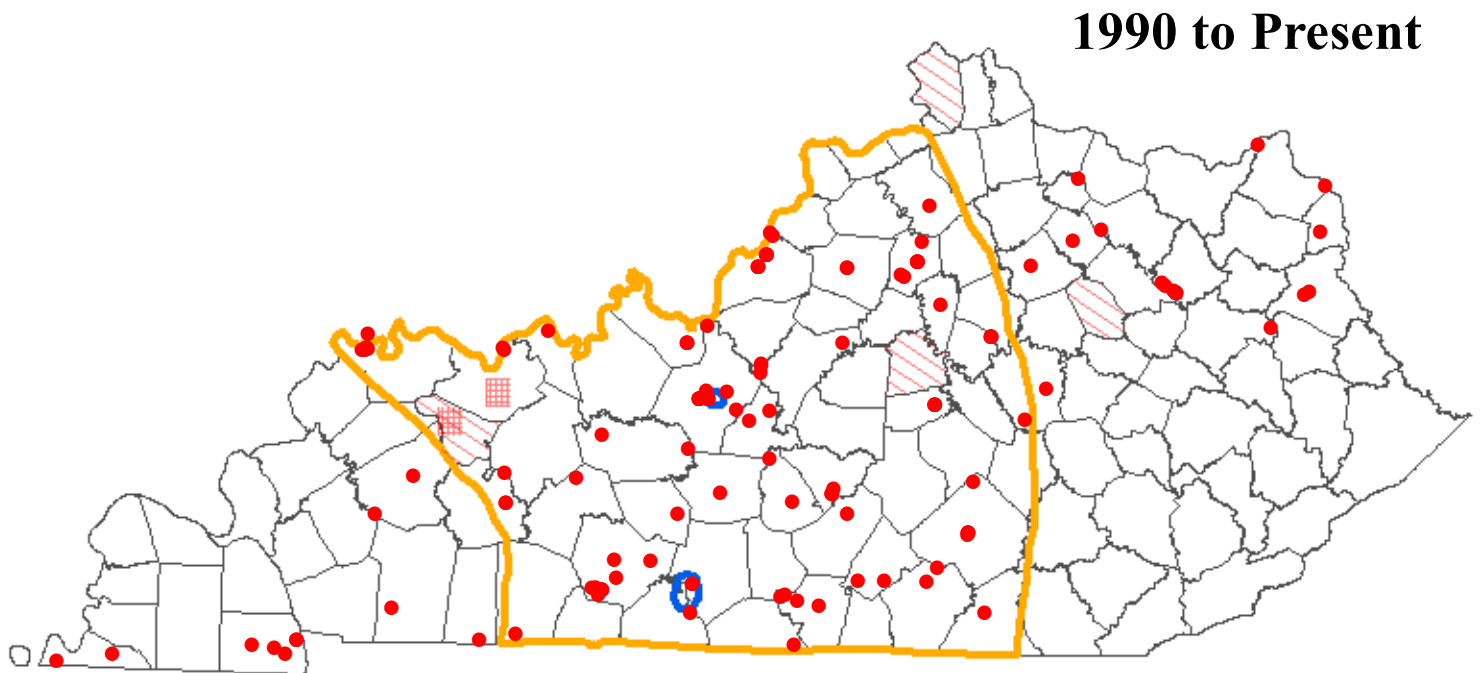
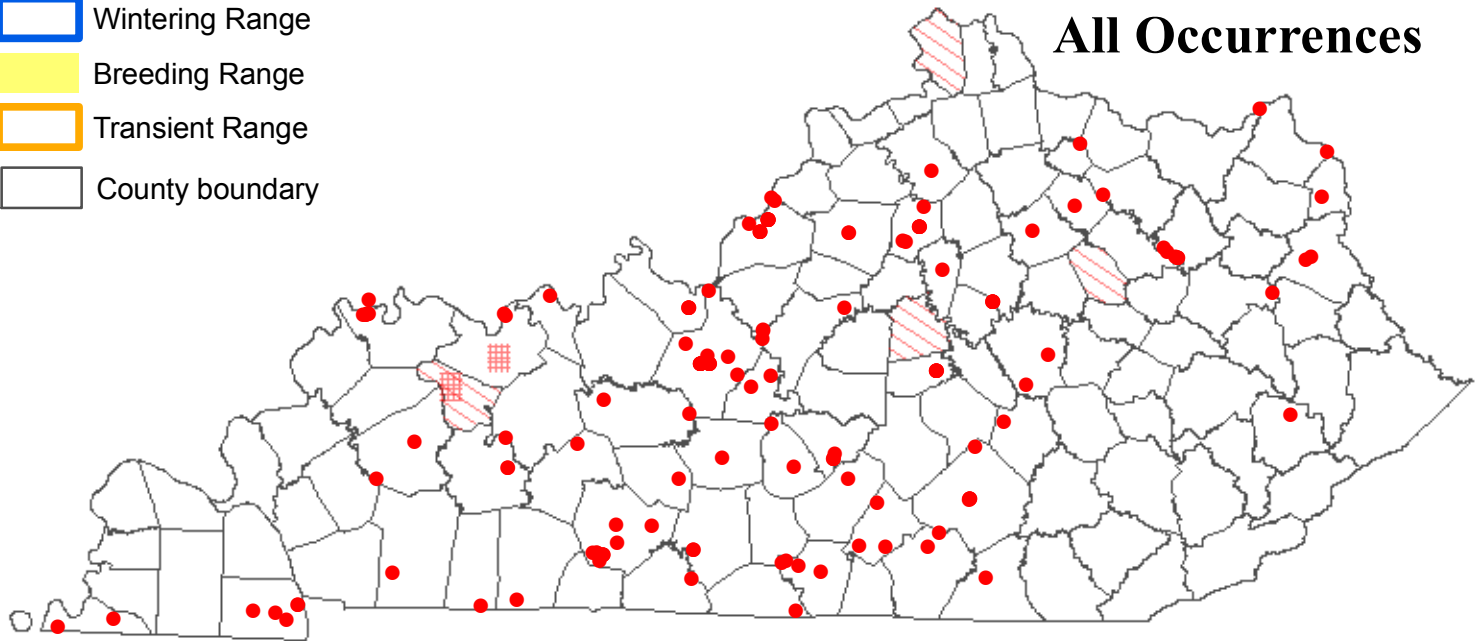


Sandhill Crane

Grus canadensis

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▣ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

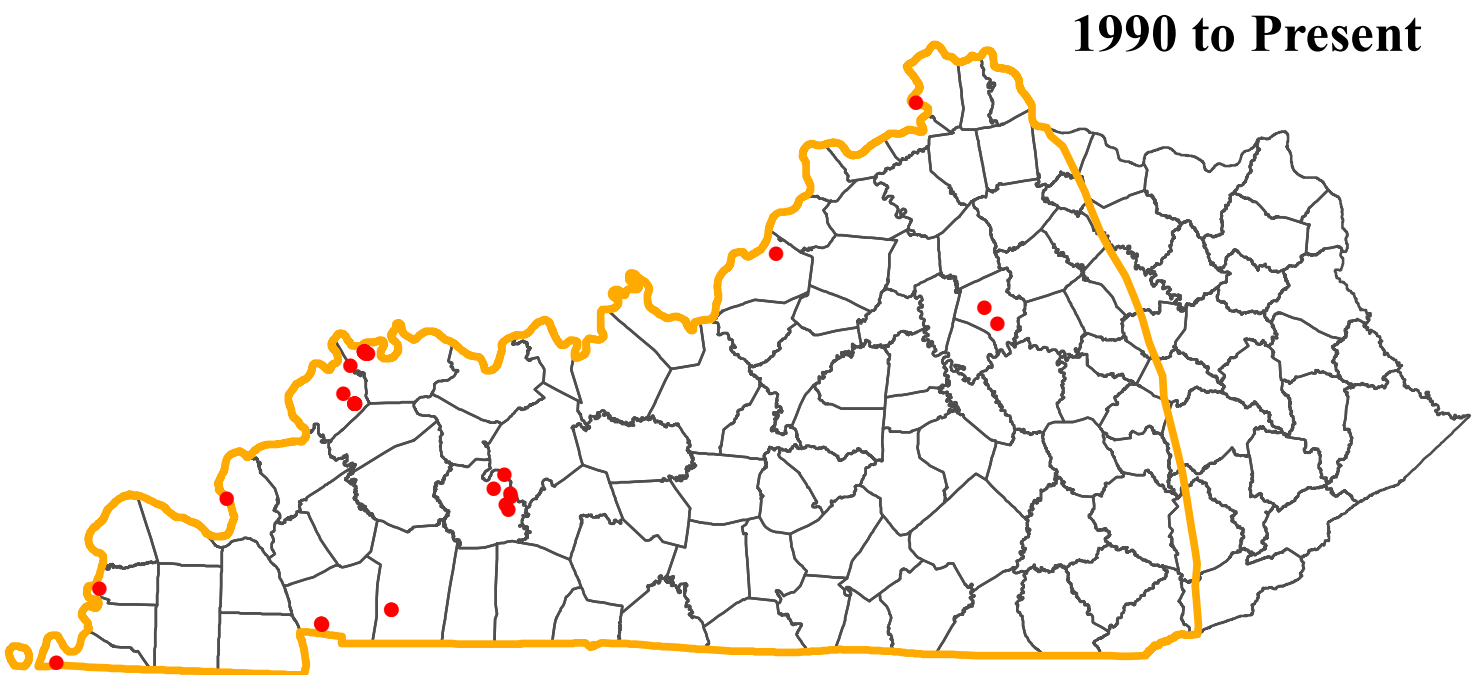
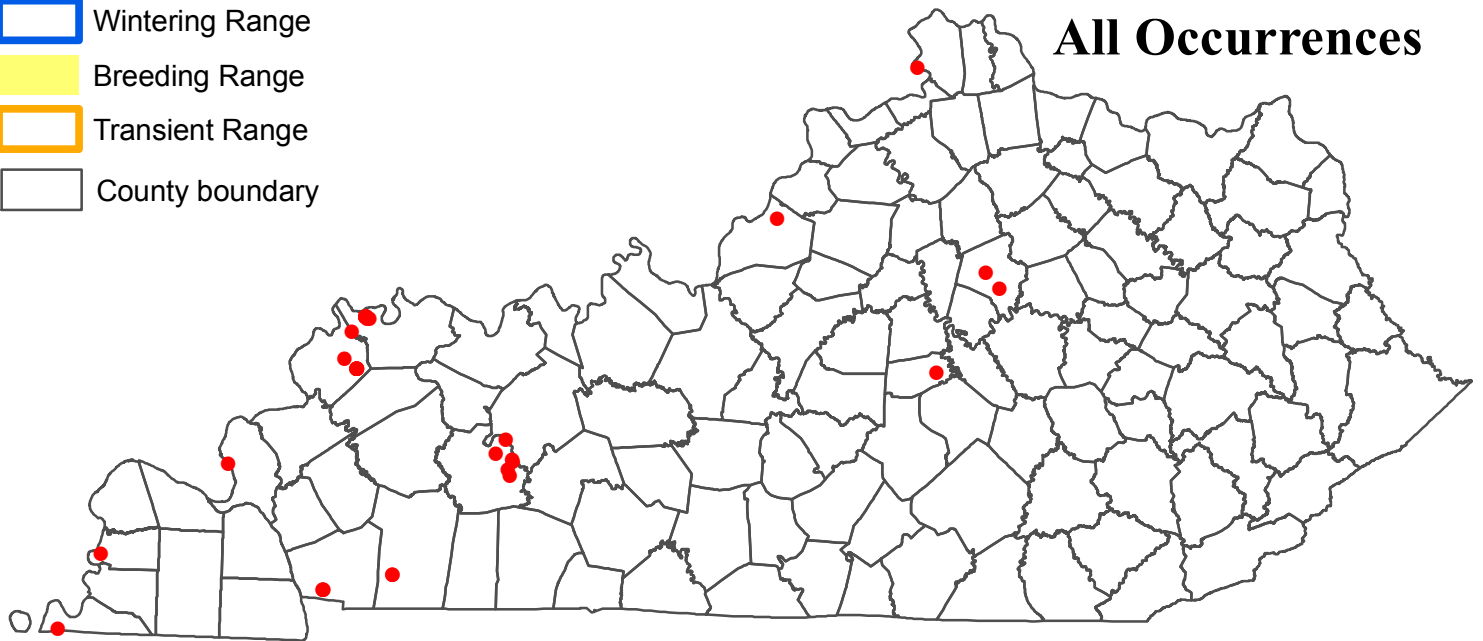


Sora

Porzana carolina

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

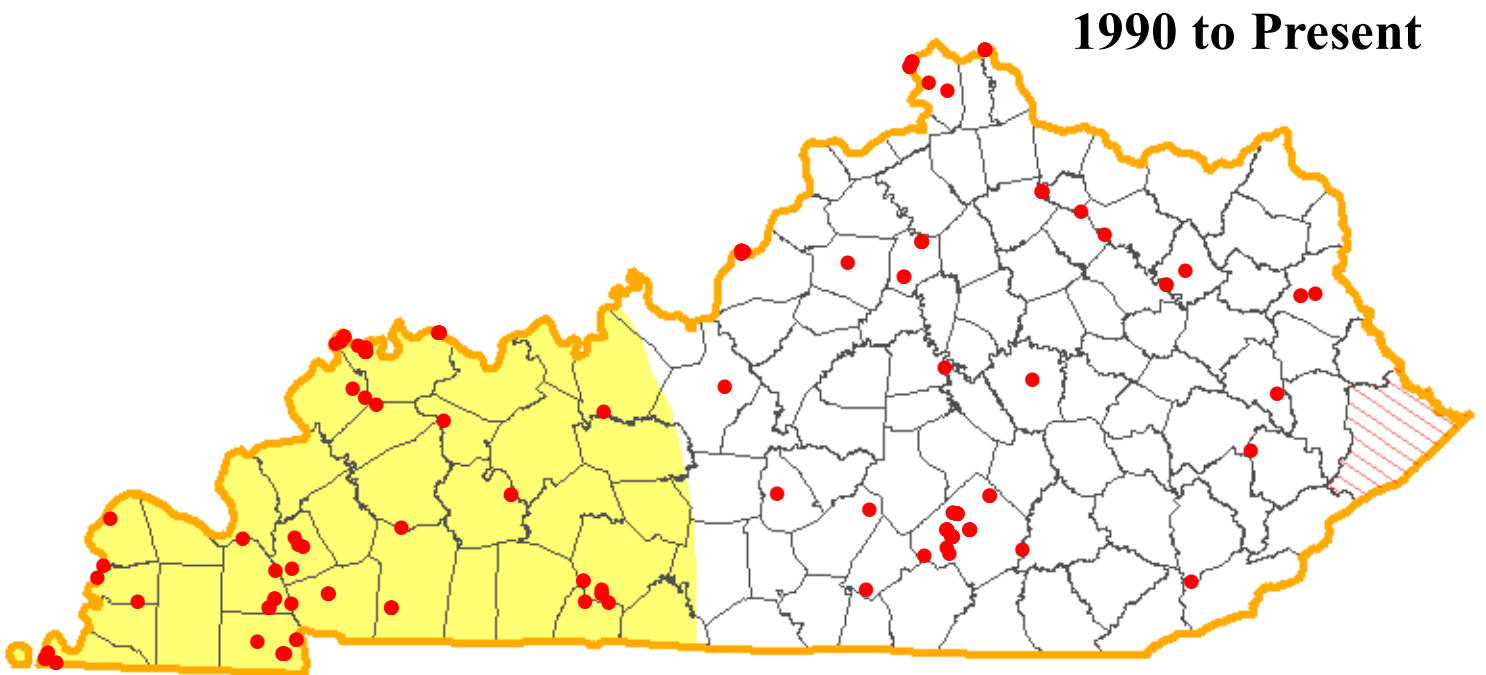
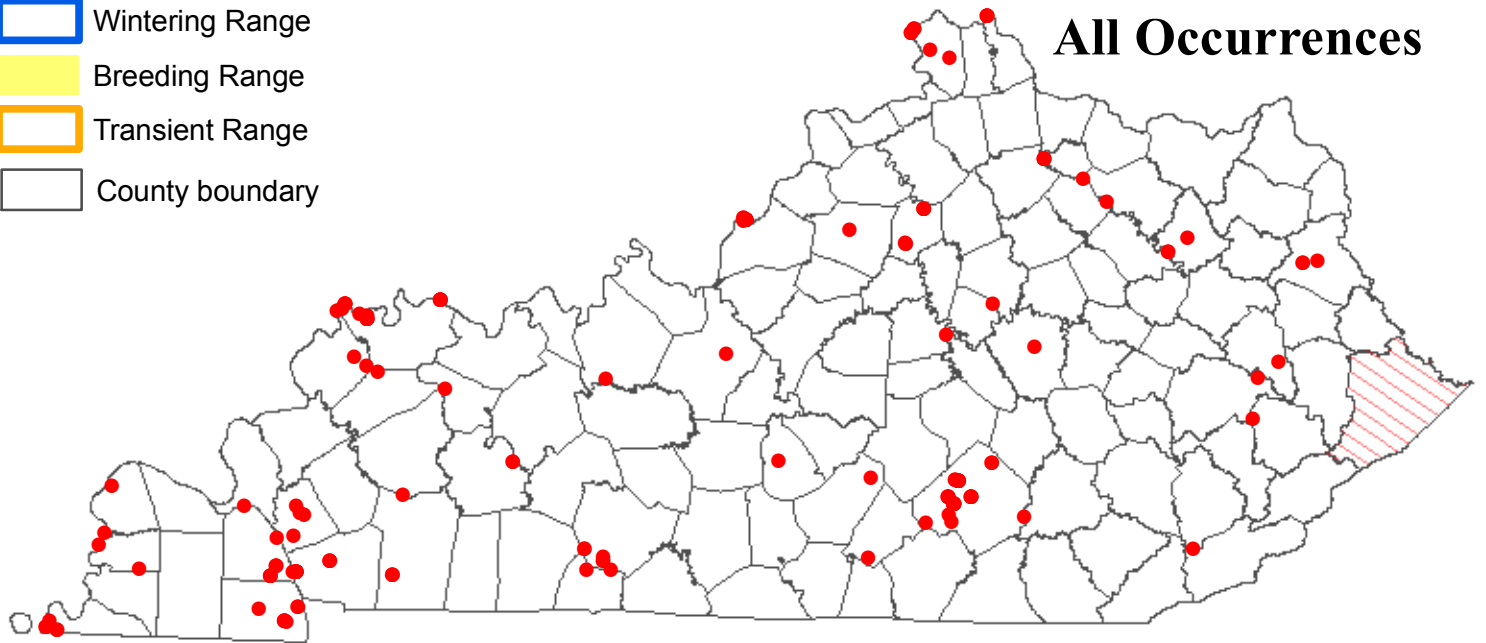


Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

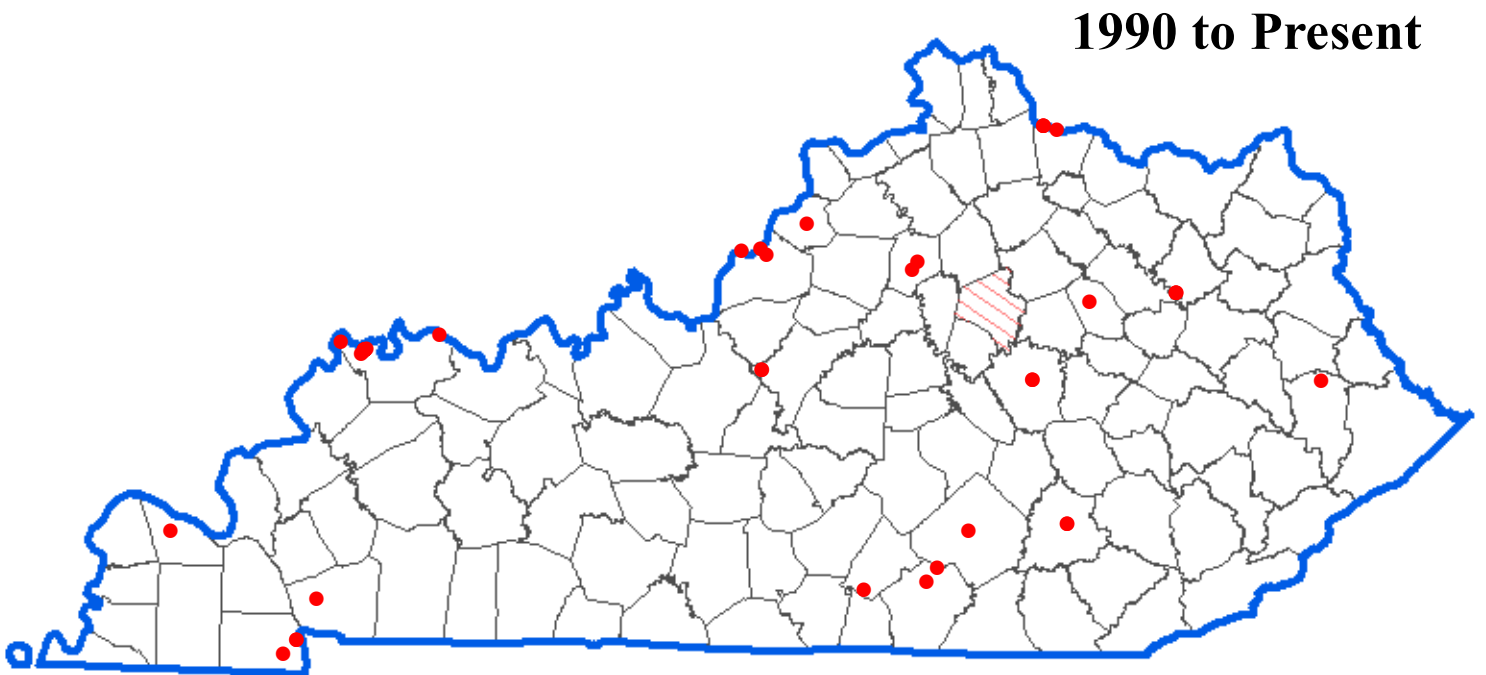
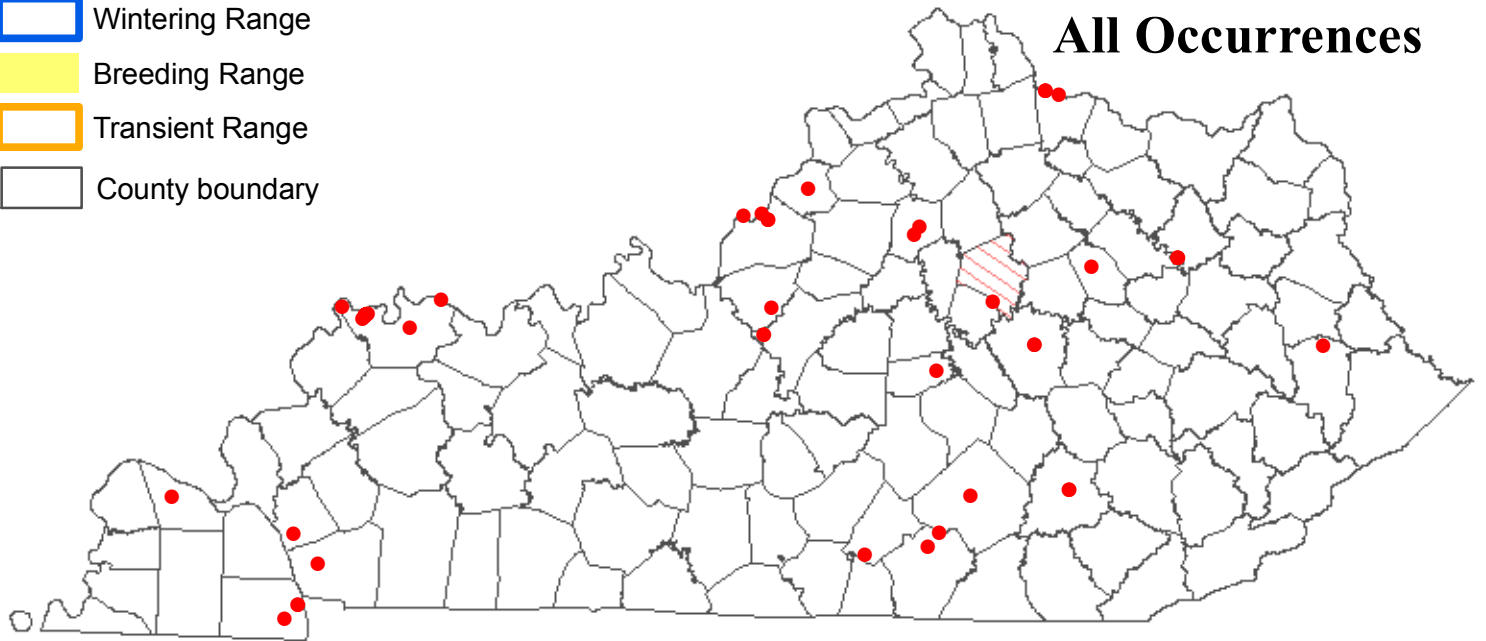


Tundra Swan

Cygnus columbianus

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

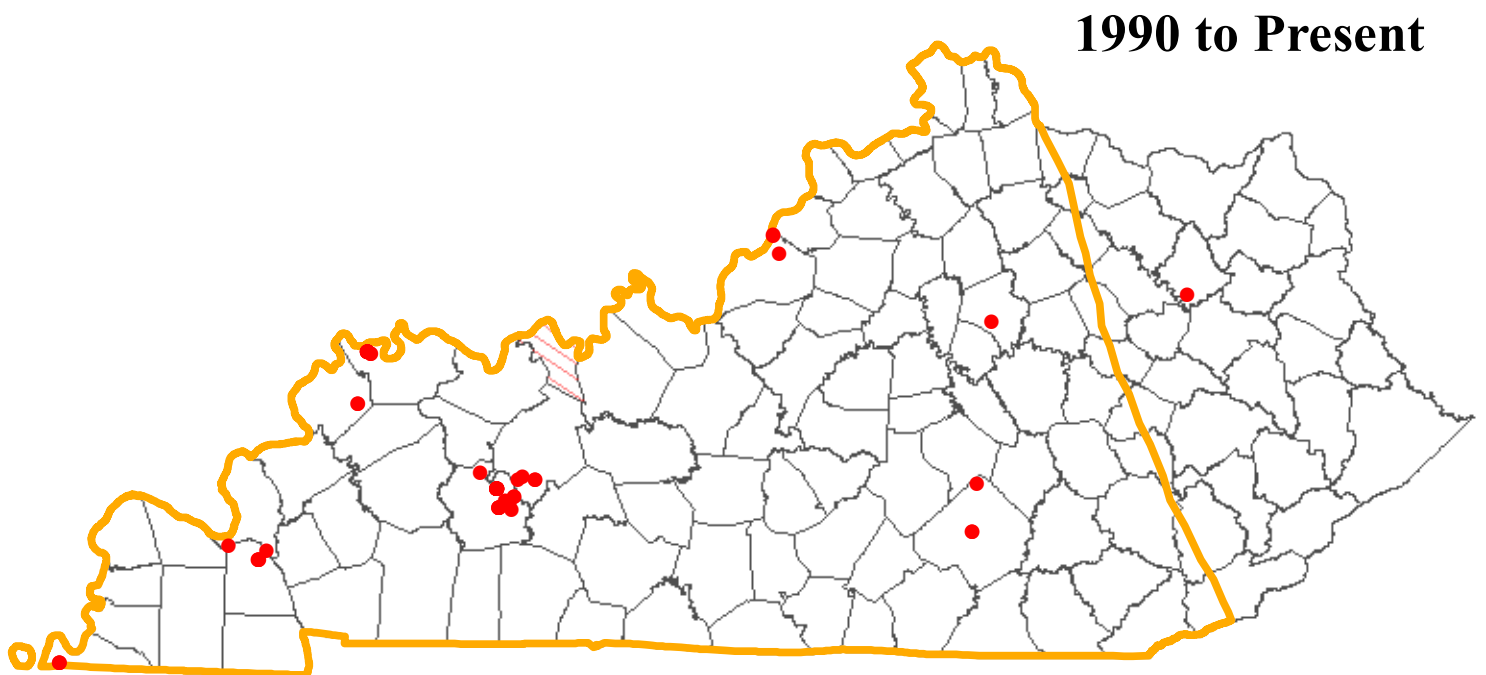
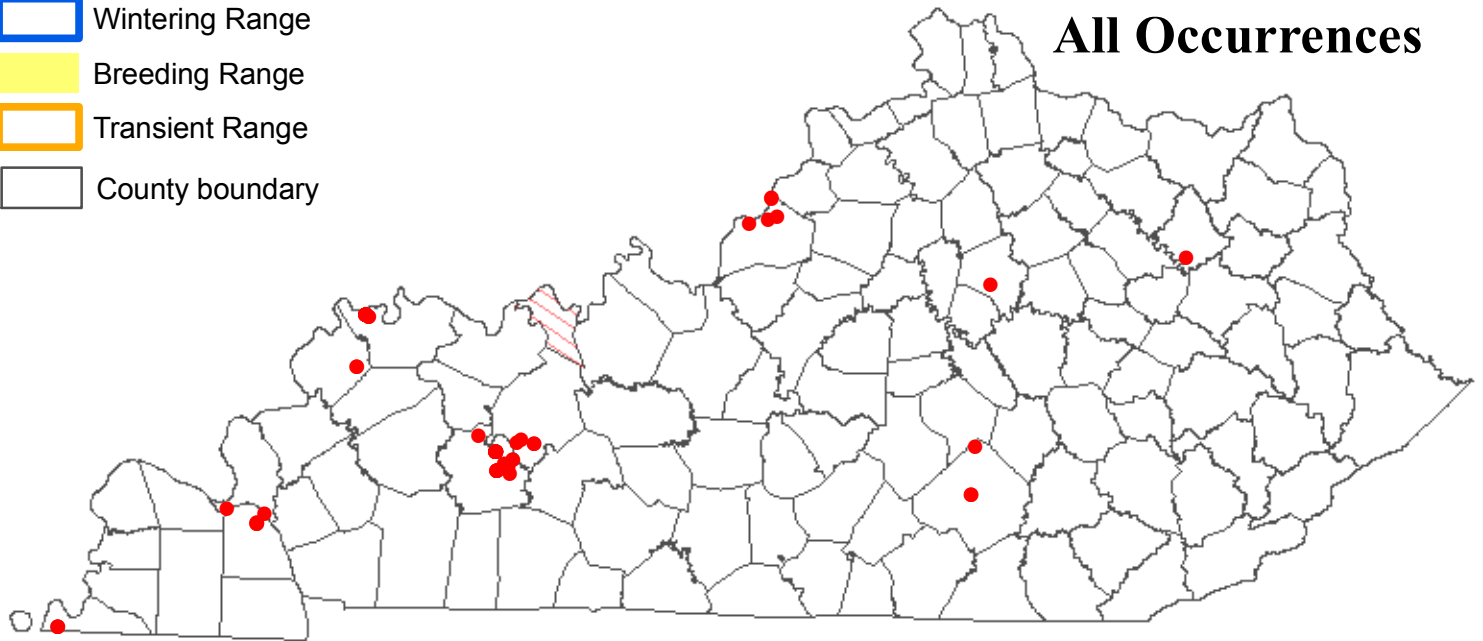


Virginia Rail

Rallus limicola

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary

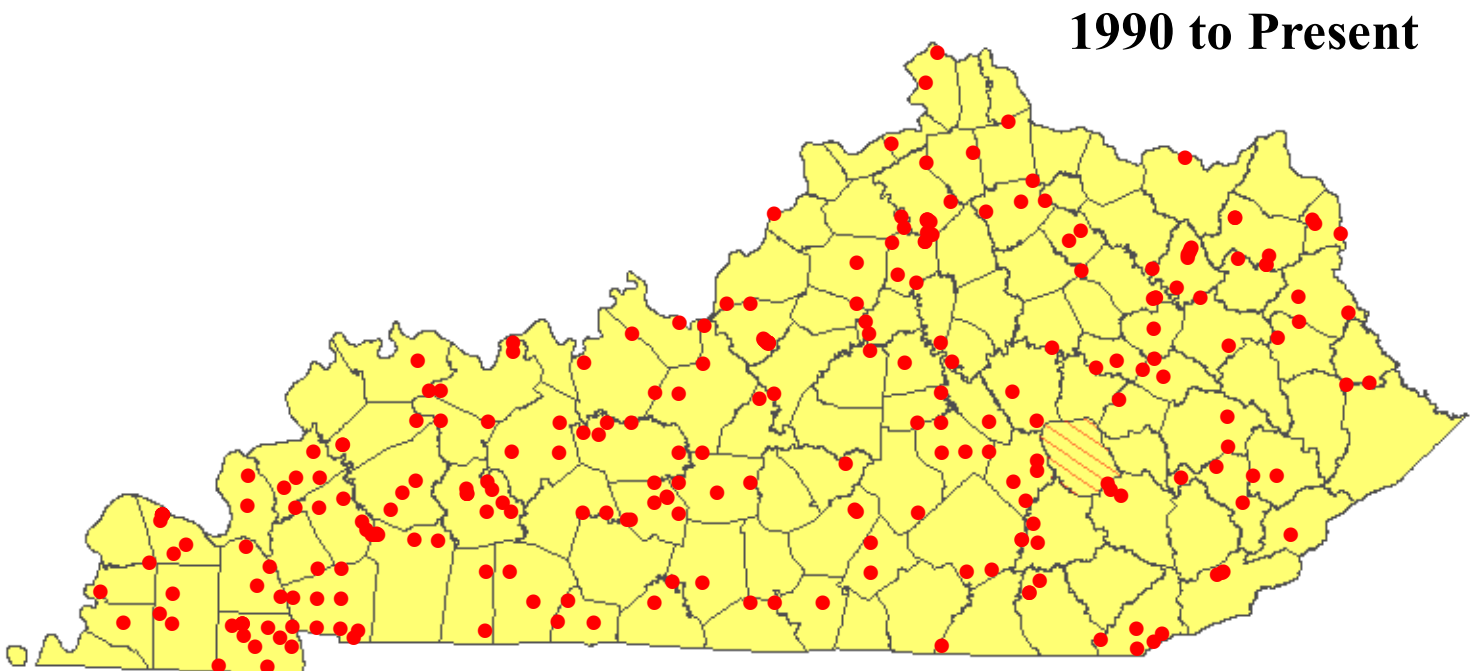
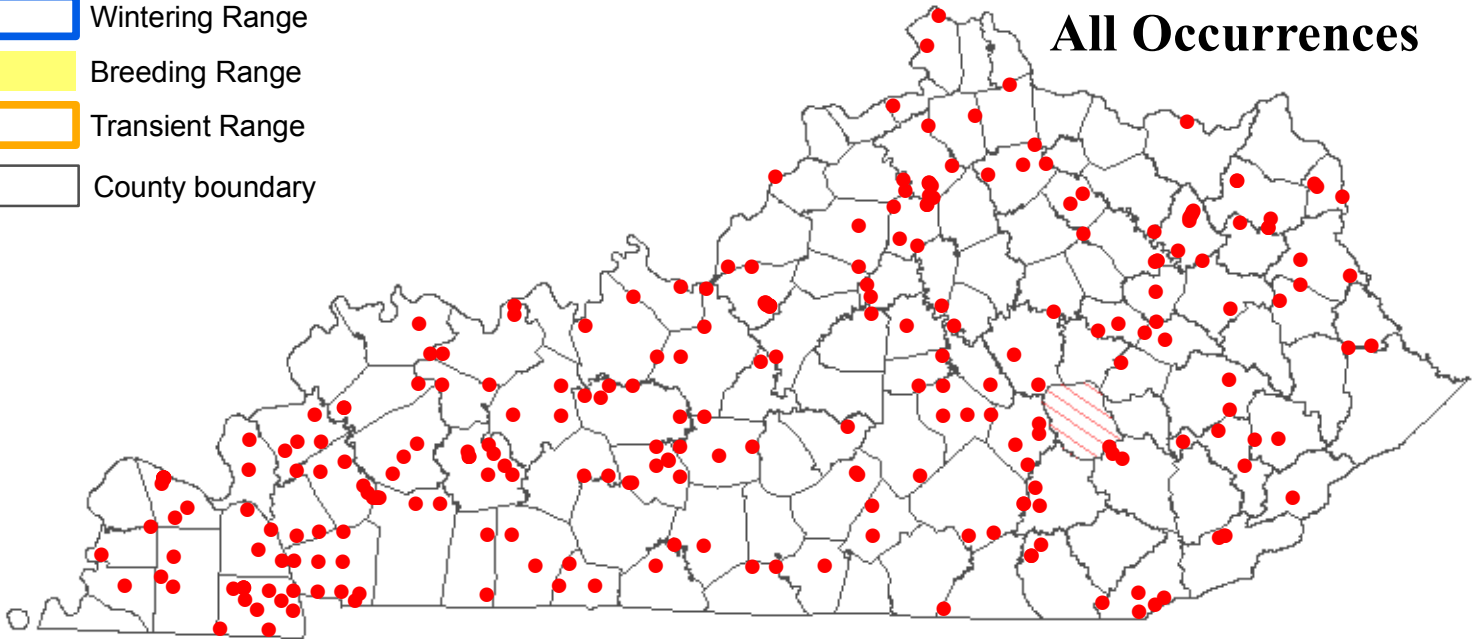


Whip-poor-will

Caprimulgus vociferus

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ Wintering Range
- ▭ Breeding Range
- ▭ Transient Range
- ▭ County boundary



Crayfishes (Class Malacostraca) Overview

The freshwater crayfishes (Order Decapoda) are one of the better known crustacean groups in Kentucky. Worldwide, freshwater crayfishes are represented by over 640 species (Crandall and Buhay 2008) with the southeastern United States being one of the epicenters of diversity. Three hundred sixty species are represented in the United States (Taylor *et al.* 2007). All of Kentucky's crayfish fauna falls into the family Cambaridae and is represented by the genera *Barbicambarus*, *Cambarus*, *Cambarellus*, *Fallicambarus*, *Orconectes*, and *Procambarus*. Kentucky is home to one of the richer freshwater crayfish faunas in North America with 54 species, with some of those species still under taxonomic review and others potentially awaiting discovery. Seven species are endemic to the state of Kentucky (*Cambarus batchi* – Bluegrass Crayfish, *Orconectes margorectus* – Livingston Crayfish, *Orconectes bisectus* – Crittenden Crayfish, *Orconectes jeffersoni* – Louisville Crayfish, *Orconectes rafinesquei* – Rough River Crayfish, *Orconectes tricuspis* – Western Highland Crayfish, *Orconectes packardi* – Appalachian Cave Crayfish). The most comprehensive treatments of Kentucky's crayfish fauna includes Rhoades (1944) and Taylor and Schuster (2005).

Modification of habitats, sedimentation, and dams are serious threats to freshwater crayfishes. A larger threat that has not yet impacted Kentucky is the introduction and establishment of non-native crayfishes. Several studies have shown the displacement of native species by more aggressive or opportunistic non-native species (Capelli 1982; Taylor and Redmer 1996; Hill and Lodge 1999). Many introductions are suspected to be from fisherman dumping their purchased live crayfish into the stream at the end of the day.

Nationally, about 48% of crayfish species are of conservation concern (ranging from Vulnerable to Endangered); over a third (37%) of the Kentucky fauna falls into this category (KSNPC, 2010). Within the Commonwealth, much of this is driven by concerns related to very small distributional extents or endemism. For instance, The Crittenden Crayfish (*Orconectes bisectus*) and Livingston Crayfish (*Orconectes margorectus*) are only found in a few streams within a couple of counties in northwestern Kentucky. The recently discovered Cumberland Plateau Cave Crayfish, recently differentiated from other species using genetic data (Buhay and Crandall, 2008), is one of our rarest crayfishes. Its global distribution is underground cave streams within an area of less than 180 square miles in southeastern Kentucky. Currently, no crayfish species are federally-protected in Kentucky although the Louisville Crayfish has been previously reviewed as a candidate for federal listing and more recently, the Blood River Crayfish.

The crayfishes of Kentucky all depend on a connection to groundwater. This facilitates burrowing, a behavior common to all crayfishes. Some species, such as stream dwellers (known as tertiary burrowers), spend only a short time of the year burrowed into the groundwater, an example being drought periods. Other species spend a majority of the year in groundwater burrow systems (primary burrowers), coming out only to breed or forage (Taylor and Schuster 2005). An example of this behavior can be seen by walking through fields in the spring and looking for mud chimneys made by the excavation activity of a crayfish. The Upland Burrowing Crayfish (*Cambarus dubius*), for instance, can be seen doing this at certain times of the year. Secondary burrowers are an intermediate between these two strategies, spending time in the year between streams and burrow systems.

Cave species are particularly at-risk from upland activities that pollute groundwater flowing into cave systems; this includes issues with chemical spills, agricultural runoff, salt from roads, and siltation from poor land use. Best Management Practices are needed to guard against perturbations to groundwater.

Crayfish Conservation Areas

Species occurrence data was used to determine 8-digit hydrologic units (watersheds) where there were endemic or multiple species of SGCN crayfish. Eleven 8-digit watersheds were identified as Crayfish Conservation Areas ([Appendix 4.35](#)), in alphabetic order: Barren, Bayou De Chien, Kentucky Lake, Little Kentucky, Lower Ohio-bay, Middle Green, South Fork Cumberland, Upper Cumberland, Upper Cumberland-Lake Cumberland, Upper Green, and Upper Levisa.

[Download all 25 new 2013 Crayfish Species Accounts and Statewide Maps \(8 MB\)](#)

Kentucky's Crayfish of Greatest Conservation Need and their statuses.

Common name	Scientific name	Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank
Malacostraca (25 species).					
An Amphipod (Stygobromus vitreus)	<i>Stygobromus vitreus</i>	N	S	G3	S1
Appalachian Cave Crayfish	<i>Orconectes packardi</i>	N	T	G2	S2
Big Sandy Crayfish	<i>Cambarus veteranus</i>	N	S	G3	S1
Big South Fork Crayfish	<i>Cambarus bouchardi</i>	N	E	G2	S2
Blood River Crayfish	<i>Orconectes burri</i>	N	T	G2	S2
Bottlebrush Crayfish	<i>Barbicambarus cornutus</i>	N	S	G3	S2

Bousfield's Amphipod	<i>Gammarus bousfieldi</i>	N	E	G1	S1
Cajun Dwarf Crayfish	<i>Cambarellus shufeldtii</i>	N	S	G5	S2
Clifton Cave Isopod	<i>Caecidotea barri</i>	N	E	G1	S1
Crittenden Crayfish	<i>Orconectes bisectus</i>	N	T	G2	S1
Cumberland Plateau Cave Crayfish	<i>Orconectes barri</i>	N	T	G2	SNR
Ghost Crayfish	<i>Orconectes inermis inermis</i>	N	S	G3	S3
Gray-speckled Crayfish	<i>Orconectes palmeri palmeri</i>	N	E	G5	S1
Hairy Crayfish	<i>Cambarus friaufi</i>	N	S	G4	S3
Livingston Crayfish	<i>Orconectes margorectus</i>	N	T	G2	S2
Longclaw Crayfish	<i>Cambarus buntingi</i>	N	S	G4	N
Louisville Crayfish	<i>Orconectes jeffersoni</i>	N	E	G1	S1
Mammoth Cave Crayfish	<i>Orconectes pellucidus</i>	N	S	G3	S3
Mammoth Cave Shrimp	<i>Palaemonias ganteri</i>	LE	E	G1	S1
Mountain Midget Crayfish	<i>Cambarus parvovulus</i>	N	T	G4	S1
Mud River Crayfish	<i>Orconectes ronaldi</i>	N	T	G3	S3
Ohio Shrimp	<i>Macrobrachium ohione</i>	N	E	G4	S1
Shrimp Crayfish	<i>Orconectes lancifer</i>	N	E	G5	S1
Swamp Dwarf Crayfish	<i>Cambarellus puer</i>	N	E	G4	S1
Vernal Crayfish	<i>Procambarus viaeviridis</i>	N	T	G5	S1

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Kentucky's Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their statuses.

Common name	Scientific name	Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank
Actinopterygii (9 species).					
Black Buffalo	<i>Ictiobus niger</i>	N	S	G5	S3
Blacktail Shiner	<i>Cyprinella venusta</i>	N	S	G5	S3
Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>	N	S	G5	N
Paddlefish	<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	N	N	G4	S4
Pallid Shiner	<i>Hybopsis amnis</i>	N	X	G4	N
Redside Dace	<i>Clinostomus elongatus</i>	N	N	G4	S3
Sicklefin Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>	N	H	G3	N
Spring Cavefish	<i>Forbesichthys agassizii</i>	N	N	G4	S4
Sturgeon Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>	N	H	G3	N

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CLASS Actinopterygii

Black Buffalo *Ictiobus niger*

Federal	Heritage	GRank	SRank	GRank	SRank
Status	Status			(Simplified)	(Simplified)
N	S	G5	S3	G5	S3

G-Trend Unknown

G-Trend Throughout its range, the black buffalo appears to be less common than the other

Comment species of buffalo (Etnier and Starnes 1993). Some authorities regard this species to be inadequately diagnosed and its taxonomic status uncertain (Burr and Warren 1986, Robison and Buchanan 1988). This has led to uncertainty regarding its distributional status in several states and speculation about misidentifications. The species is generally treated as vulnerable to imperiled in most of the upper Mississippi River basin and Ohio River drainage. It is

considered secure in only a few states in the middle and lower Mississippi River basin, although records in the Gulf Slope drainages in Texas and New Mexico are thought to potentially be based on misidentifications or introductions (Etnier and Starnes 1993, Natureserve 2008, Shute 1980).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend Burr and Warren (1986) regarded this species as sporadic and rare in rivers and

Comment reservoirs in western Kentucky, and sporadic in the main channels of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. In the Ohio River, Pearson and Krumholz (1984) reported the distribution of the black buffalo to be nearly identical to that of the smallmouth buffalo, but much less common. Since 1986, many additional records have been reported for the middle and lower Ohio River, and relatively few from the Mississippi River and minor tributaries in western Kentucky; however, many of these records are not tied to vouchered specimens and need to be confirmed. The black buffalo is listed as a species of Special Concern by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (2005).

Habitat / In Kentucky, the black buffalo occurs in pools and backwaters of streams and

Life larger rivers, but can also be found in reservoirs, oxbows, and other lentic

History environments (Burr and Warren 1986). The species has also been reported to prefer stronger currents of rivers and reservoirs (Pfleiger 1997, Robison and Buchanan 1988). The black buffalo is a bottom feeder consuming benthic macroinvertebrates, with mollusks such as the introduced Asian Clam (*Corbicula*)

being a large dietary component (Becker 1983, Minckley et al. 1970). Spawning has been reported to occur during April and May, during which fish congregate in large numbers in shallow water broadcasting eggs over a variety of hard substrates from bedrock to gravel (Piller et al. 2003). Piller et al. (2003) observed spawning fish that had migrated into a small stream from a reservoir, but suggested the possibility that black buffalo may be adaptable to other habitats for spawning, such as shallow areas of reservoirs.

Key Most occurrence records available for this species are from the Middle and

Habitat Lower Ohio River, including the following HUC8 units: 05090103 Little Scioto-Tygarts (1 record, 2006), 05090201 Ohio Brush-Whiteoak (11 records, 1988-2007), 05090203 Middle Ohio-Laughery (3 records, 1988-2005) 05140101 Silver-Little Kentucky (1973-2007, 5 records), 05140104 Blue-Sinking (1976-2005, 2 records), 05140201 Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon (1976-2008, 10 records), 05140202 Highland-Pigeon (2008, 1 record), 05140203 Lower Ohio-Bay (1997-2008, 17 records), 05140206 Lower Ohio (1996-2008, 13 records). Although the Ohio River has been assessed and found to fully support aquatic life (ORSANCO 2008), the entire river has been impounded by a series of navigation locks and dams, which has also diminished natural variation flow conditions in the lower reaches of tributaries. Various sources of industrial and domestic pollution severely degraded water quality during the first half of the 20th century, with some improvements made following the establishment of regulatory measures such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Pearson and Krumholz 1984).

The species has not been reported from the Green River basin since 1983, and only a few records exist in the following HUC8 units: 05110006 Pond (1982, 1 record), 05110003 Middle Green (1983, 1 record), 05110004 Rough (1959-1961, 2 records). Habitat conditions were found to be fully supporting of aquatic life use in 28% of wadeable streams based on probabilistic (random) surveys in the

Green-Tradewater Basin Management Unit. This level of support was higher in comparison to the upper Cumberland River and Four Rivers basins (Kentucky Division of Water 2008).

The Lower Tennessee (HUC8 06040006) and Lower Cumberland (HUC8 05130205) each have relatively recent records (1997-2006) below Kentucky and Barkley dams; no recent records are available for Kentucky or Barkley reservoirs.

Most records available for the Jackson Purchase area, including the Lower Mississippi-Memphis (HUC8 08010100) and Bayou du Chien-Mayfield (HUC8 08010201) were collected prior to 1986; only two records were reported since 2000. Habitat conditions fully supporting aquatic life in the Four Rivers basins based on a probability biosurvey and analysis were 17% of wadeable streams were fully supporting of aquatic life use (Kentucky Division of Water 2008). The mainstem Mississippi River, like the Ohio, has been altered by channel modifications to accommodate barge traffic, which has deteriorated conditions to fully support aquatic life.

Guids Large rivers in slackwater.

Statewide [Black Buffalo.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

2C Construction/Operation of impoundments (migration barrier)

2E Stream channelization/ditching

2J Alteration of surface runoff patterns (flow/temp regimes)

Biological/ consumptive uses

5J Incidental mortality due to commercial fishing/musseling (mortality and
overharvest)

5K Lack of suitable habitat for spawning, nesting, or breeding

CLASS Actinopterygii

Blacktail Shiner

Cyprinella venusta

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	S	G5	S3	G5	S3

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend This species occurs in the Gulf Coastal Plain from the Suwannee River system in

Comment Florida to the Rio Grande in Texas, where it is generally abundant (Etnier and Starnes, 1993), and in the Mississippi basin north to central Missouri and extreme southern Illinois (Boschung and Mayden 2004). Most populations are considered to be stable, having experienced declines and fluctuations over a small portion (approximately 10%) of the species' range (Natureserve 2008). Kristmundsdottir and Gold (1996) identified four groups (clades) based on geographic variation in mtDNA (Choctawatchee, Apalachicola, Mobile, and Western) that could potentially be recognized as distinct species, although additional study is needed.

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend Although it is considered to be stable throughout most of its range, the blacktail

Comment shiner is considered vulnerable to critically imperiled at the northern periphery of its range in western Kentucky and southern Illinois, where it faces threats of

habitat loss and hybridization with the invasive red shiner (Smith 1979, Burr and Warren 1986). This species needs regular periodic surveys to monitor long-term trends in distributional status and abundance. It is listed as Special Concern by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (2005).

Habitat / In Kentucky, the blacktail shiner mostly occurs in small Coastal Plain streams
Life over firm sand/gravel substrates in riffles, raceways, or along undercut banks
History and around submerged logs and stumps. Less frequently, or more sporadically, it is found along shorelines of the Mississippi and lower Ohio rivers over firm sand or gravel in current (Burr and Warren 1986). The blackfin shiner is a schooling species feeding primarily aquatic insect larvae, terrestrial insects, and small seeds (Robison and Buchanan 1988, Ross 2001). In Tennessee, the spawning period has been estimated to occur from mid-May through August, based on observations of males in breeding condition (Etnier and Starnes 1993). Eggs are deposited by females in crevices of submerged objects occupied and defended by breeding males (Heins 1990, Pflieger 1997, Boschung and Mayden 2004).

Key	This species is restricted to extreme western Kentucky, where it occurs in
Habitat	Terrapin Creek (Obion River HUC8 08010202), Lower Ohio (HUC8 05140206), Lower Mississippi-Memphis (HUC8 08010100), and Bayou De Chien-Mayfield (08010100) watersheds. These watersheds are located primarily within the Mississippi Loess Plains in the Jackson Purchase area and small sections of the Interior River Valleys and Hills (along the lower Ohio River) and Mississippi Alluvial Plain (along the Mississippi River). Forested wetlands that were once extensive have been replaced by cropland and pastureland. Streams typically have low gradients with gravel and sand substrates. Nearly all of the major stream systems containing blacktail shiner populations have been channelized to some degree (Burr and Warren 1986, Woods et al. 2002).
Guilds	Large rivers in current, Lowland Streams in riffles, Lowland Streams in slackwater.
Statewide	Blacktail Shiner.pdf
Map	

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2E Stream channelization/ditching
- 2F Riparian zone removal (Agriculture/development)
- 2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration

Biological/ consumptive uses

5D Competition from introduced/invasive or native species

5E Hybridization with closely related species

Siltation and increased turbidity

1B Agriculture

CLASS Actinopterygii

Burbot

Lota lota

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	S	G5	SU	G5	N

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend Globally, the burbot is widely distributed in both hemispheres south to about 40

Comment degrees N (Lee and Gilbert 1980). In the eastern hemisphere, it occurs throughout Canada, Alaska, and northern United States south to Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, Wyoming, and Oregon (Page and Burr 1991). The species is secure (often cited as common) throughout Canada and Alaska, and the Great Lakes drainages; however, it is uncommon in the Mississippi River basin (Becker 1983), which represents the southern periphery of its North American range.

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend The status of the burbot in Kentucky has been in question since the earliest

Comment reported records from the Ohio River in the late 1800s (Clay 1975, Burr and Warren 1986). This species is infrequently caught, usually accidentally, by anglers and commercial fishermen. There is no evidence that reproduction occurs anywhere in Kentucky (Clay 1975), and it is uncertain whether occasionally captured individuals represent escapees from stocked fishing lakes in Indiana, Kentucky, or Ohio, or are evidence of a sparse, but naturally

reproducing population. The latter possibility is the reason it has been listed as a species of Special Concern by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (2005). Additional research is needed to clarify the status of this species in the Ohio River.

Habitat / Habitat preferences for this species in Kentucky are poorly known; most
Life individuals have been captured by commercial or sport fishermen from large
History rivers. In northern areas, the species prefers bottoms of cold lakes and streams in depths greater than 1.5 m with substrates of rock, sand, and mud (Burr and Warren 1986). The burbot is nocturnal in both its reproductive and feeding habits (Lee and Gilbert 1980, Becker 1983). In the Great Lakes and areas to the north, spawning occurs in mid-winter, from January to March, usually in shallow bays over and or on gravel shoals (Becker 1983, Holm et al. 2009). In rivers, spawning has been reported in areas of low current velocity in main channels or side channels behind deposition bars (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003). The burbot has a voracious appetite, foraging on the bottom at night for wide variety of fishes, crustaceans, and other benthic macroinvertebrates (Scott and Crossman 1973, Holm et al. 2009).

Key The only records available for this species are from the Ohio, Kentucky, and
Habitat Licking rivers. In the Ohio River, the burbot has been reported from the following HUC8 units: 05090201 Ohio Brush-Whiteoak, 05090203 Middle Ohio-Laughery, 05140101 Silver-Little Kentucky, 05140104 Blue-Sinking, 05140203

Lower Ohio-Bay, and 05140206 Lower Ohio. Pre-1967 records are available for the Lower Kentucky River (05100205) and Licking River (05100101). The most recent records are from the Ohio River: 05140203 Lower Ohio-Bay (2002, photo record), 05140104 Blue-Sinking (1993, specimen record), and 05090201 Ohio Brush-Whiteoak (1993, photo record) (Compton et al. 2004). Although the Ohio River has been assessed and found to fully support aquatic life (ORSANCO 2008), the entire river has been impounded by a series of navigation locks and dams, which has also diminished natural variation flow conditions in the lower reaches of tributaries. Various sources of industrial and domestic pollution severely degraded water quality during the first half of the 20th century, with some improvements made following the establishment of regulatory measures such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Pearson and Krumholz 1984).

Guilds Large rivers in slackwater.

Statewide [Burbot.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2C Construction/Operation of impoundments (migration barrier)
- 2E Stream channelization/ditching
- 2J Alteration of surface runoff patterns (flow/temp regimes)

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5F Low population densities
- 5J Incidental mortality due to commercial fishing/musseling (mortality and overharvest)
- 5K Lack of suitable habitat for spawning, nesting, or breeding

CLASS Actinopterygii

Paddlefish *Polyodon spathula*

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G4	S4	G4	S4

G-Trend Stable

G-Trend The Paddlefish is a wide-ranging species in central and eastern North America,

Comment once common throughout much of the Mississippi River Basin, Gulf Coastal drainages, and formerly in Lake Erie (Etnier and Starnes 1993). Because the Paddlefish is common in the international caviar trade, in 1992 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) adopted a U.S. proposal to regulate trade in this species under CITES Appendix II (Rasmussen and Graham 1998). Although it is considered apparently secure by NatureServe (2008), the Paddlefish is listed as vulnerable on the American Fisheries Society list of imperiled freshwater and diadromous fishes of North America due to 1) present or threatened destruction, modification, or reduction of the species' habitat or range, and 2) over-exploitation for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes including intentional eradication or indirect impacts of fishing (Jelks et al. 2008).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend	Burr and Warren (1986) considered this species to be occasional in the
Comment	<p>Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland, Green, Salt, Kentucky, and Licking rivers and lower Bayou du Chien. It was initially assigned to a conservation status category of special concern in a list of state endangered, threatened, or rare fishes (Branson et al. 1981), but was later removed because it was thought to be more common than previously believed (Burr and Warren 1986). Although assigned a status of S4 (Apparently Secure) by NatureServe (2008), Kentucky currently lacks solid information on the status of populations within the state.</p> <p>There is ample evidence in most states that illegal harvest of Paddlefish for eggs continues to be a problem that may lead to depleted stocks. Because Paddlefish move freely through large rivers in the Mississippi River Basin, the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) was established in 1991, to provide an interjurisdictional fishery management framework and conduct cooperative basinwide stock assessments (Rasmussen and Graham 1998).</p>
Habitat /	In Kentucky, the Paddlefish inhabits quiet or slow-moving waters of large and
Life	medium-sized rivers, oxbows, backwaters, and impoundments rich in
History	<p>zooplankton on which it feeds. Adults must have access to gravel bars subject to sustained flooding during spring months for spawning (Burr and Warren 1986).</p> <p>The species prefers depths greater than 1.5 m, seeking deeper water in late fall and winter (Burkhead and Jenkins 1991). Individuals may congregate near artificial structures (e.g., below dams) that create eddies and reduce current</p>

velocity (Southall and Hubert 1984). Paddlefish have been reported to spawn in fast shallow water over gravel bars, including significant tail water sections below upstream impoundments (e.g., Stancill et al. 2002). In the lower Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, larvae have been reported to drift from Reservoir to reservoir (Wallus 1986).

Key Numerous occurrence records available for this species are from the Ohio River,

Habitat including the following HUC8 units: Little Scioto-Tygarts (05090103), Ohio Brush-Whiteoak (05090201), Middle Ohio-Laughery (05090203), Silver-Little Kentucky (05140101), Blue-Sinking (05140104), Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon (05140201), Highland-Pigeon (05140202), Lower Ohio-Bay (05140203), and Lower Ohio (05140206). Although the Ohio River has been assessed and found to fully support aquatic life (ORSANCO 2008), the entire river has been impounded by a series of navigation locks and dams, which has also diminished natural variation flow conditions in the lower reaches of tributaries. Various sources of industrial and domestic pollution severely degraded water quality during the first half of the 20th century, with some improvements made following the establishment of regulatory measures such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Pearson and Krumholz 1984).

Records for this species are also available for the Lower Mississippi-Memphis (08010100), and Bayou du Chien-Mayfield (08010201) watershed units. Sections

of the Mississippi River where this species has been found are impacted by channel modifications made to enhance barge traffic. No reach of the Mississippi River or its tributaries in western Kentucky are rated as fully supporting aquatic life. Most (64%) offer only partial support, while 36% are considered non-supportive (Kentucky Division of Water 2002).

Several records are available for the Lower Cumberland River (05130205), Kentucky Lake (06040005), and Lower Tennessee River (06040006). Habitat conditions fully supporting aquatic life in the Four Rivers basins based on a probability biosurvey and analysis were 17% of wadeable streams were fully supporting of aquatic life use (Kentucky Division of Water 2008).

Two records exist for the Rough River (05110004) and Middle Green River (05110003). Habitat conditions were found to be fully supporting of aquatic life use in 28% of wadeable streams based on probabilistic (random) surveys in the Green-Tradewater Basin Management Unit. This level of support was higher in comparison to the upper Cumberland River and Four Rivers basins (Kentucky Division of Water 2008).

Several records are available for the Lower Kentucky River (05100205). The mainstem Kentucky River is impounded by a series of locks and dams extending from the mouth upstream to the confluence of the South Fork. The resultant

pooling of the mainstem has resulted in the loss of Paddlefish spawning habitat and prevents long-range movements that may be required to maintain populations (Dillard et al. 1986).

Three records are available for the Licking River (05100101). The Licking River is free-flowing below Cave Run Lake and has a significant portion of outstanding resource waters (Kentucky Division of Water 2002); however, much of the middle and lower sections of the watershed has been subjected to excessive siltation from poor agricultural practices as well as sewage pollution (Burr and Warren 1986).

Gilds Large rivers in current, Large rivers in slackwater.

Statewide [Paddlefish.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2A Navigational dredging/Commercial dredging
- 2C Construction/Operation of impoundments (migration barrier)
- 2G Water level fluctuations

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5P Market hunting for human consumption

Terrestrial habitat degradation

3H Habitat loss outside of Kentucky

CLASS Actinopterygii

Pallid Shiner

Hybopsis amnis

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	X	G4	S1	G4	N

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend The pallid shiner occurs in the Mississippi River from Wisconsin and Minnesota,

Comment south to Louisiana and west to the Guadalupe River in Texas (Clemmer 1980).

Population declines have been documented over the past three decades, particularly in the northern portions of its range (Clemmer 1980, Becker 1983, Skelly and Sule 1983, Warren and Burr 1988, Kwak 1991, Pflieger 1997).

Currently, the species is uncommon throughout the northern extent of its range and stable in portions of the south, where it has been reported to be fairly common (Natureserve 2008). Recently, the pallid shiner was added to the American Fisheries Society list of imperiled freshwater and diadromous fishes of North America based on present or threatened destruction, modification, or reduction of the species' habitat or range (Jelks et al. 2008).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend The pallid shiner is known from only six localities in the lower Tennessee, Green,

Comment and upper Cumberland basins in Kentucky (Burr and Warren 1986). Until

rediscovered in the South Fork Cumberland River in 2005 (Thomas 2006), the pallid shiner was on the list of plants and animals presumed extinct or extirpated from Kentucky (Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission 2005); the last previous record was from Wolf Lick Creek (Middle Green River drainage) in 1970. The species was collected again in the South Fork Cumberland River in 2006. The pallid shiner is a species that potentially could have been overlooked in recent collections because of its close similarity to other minnows (e.g., bigeye chub and mimic shiner). Additional sampling at other known historic localities is needed to determine the status of this species within the state.

Habitat / Habitat preferences for this species in Kentucky are poorly known (Burr and
Life Warren 1986). In the South Fork Cumberland River, 17 individuals were
History collected along the margin of the stream lined with water willow (*Justicia* sp.);
substrate was a mixture of medium- to large-sized cobble, mixed with gravel and
sand (Thomas 2006). In more southern parts of its range, the pallid shiner has
been reported to occur in medium to large streams and rivers in quite water at the
lower ends of sand bars over soft sand/silt substrates (Clemmer 1980, Burr and
Warren 1986). Biology and life history of populations in Kentucky are unknown.
In the south, the species has been reported to spawn during late winter and early
spring; adults in reproductive condition have been observed during March in
Arkansas (Clemmer 1980), and during May in western Tennessee (Etnier and
Starnes 1993).

Key Because this species has not been collected recently anywhere outside of the

Habitat South Fork Cumberland River, this watershed may currently provide the best suitable habitat for this species in Kentucky. In the South Fork Cumberland River, habitat conditions fully supporting aquatic life include 90% of the 75.5 miles of stream assessed within the watershed, and 52.3 stream miles are considered outstanding resource water (Kentucky Division of Water 2002). Other watersheds containing historic records are more impaired. Habitat conditions in these watersheds fully supporting aquatic life range from 49% in the Middle Green River (HUC8 05110003) to 75% in the Lower Tennessee-Kentucky Lake (HUC8 06040006) (Kentucky Division of Water 2004).

Guilds Medium to large streams, Upland streams in pools.

Statewide [Pallid Shiner.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2B Gravel/sand removal or quarrying (e.g., mineral excavation)
- 2C Construction/Operation of impoundments (migration barrier)
- 2E Stream channelization/ditching
- 2G Water level fluctuations
- 2J Alteration of surface runoff patterns (flow/temp regimes)

Siltation and increased turbidity

1A Coal mining

1B Agriculture

1D Urbanization/Development General Construction

1E Silviculture

CLASS Actinopterygii

Redside Dace

Clinostomus elongatus

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G4	S3S4	G4	S3

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend The redbside dace currently occupies a discontinuous distribution from the upper

Comment Susquehanna River drainage of New York and Pennsylvania, west through the lower Great Lakes, Ohio, and upper Mississippi River basins to Iowa (now extirpated) and Minnesota. Disjunct populations have disappeared or are declining in the eastern portion of its range and it is localized and very rare in the west (Gilbert 1980, Page and Burr 1991, Natureserve 2008). In Canada, it occurs in only a few streams draining into Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and Lake Huron in southern Ontario (Parker et al. 1988, Natureserve 2008). Recently, the redbside dace was added to the American Fisheries Society list of imperiled freshwater and diadromous fishes of North America based on present or threatened destruction, modification, or reduction of the species' habitat or range (Jelks et al. 2008).

S-Trend Stable

S-Trend The redbside dace reaches the southern extent of its range on the Western

Comment Allegheny Plateau of northeastern Kentucky, where it is occasional to locally common in several tributaries of the North Fork of Licking River, Beaver Creek, and Red River (Burr and Warren 1986, Meade et al. 1986). Although these small, isolated populations currently appear to be stable, lack of adequate protection makes them vulnerable to habitat loss and degradation. In Wisconsin, Lyons et al. (2000) associated extirpation of redbase dace populations with introductions and population expansions of the piscivorous brown trout into headwater habitats used by the dace. In Kentucky, several streams supporting redbase dace are stocked with rainbow and/or brown trout.

Habitat / Habitat requirements for this species are narrow and specific. Streams
Life supporting populations share certain physiochemical characteristics, including
History cool and clear water of near neutral pH in forested watersheds with good canopy cover. Forest cover usually includes eastern hemlock and white laurel. Individuals are typically found in pools less than 2 m deep, in moderate current, with gravel and sandy substrates, and minimal siltation (Burr and Warren 1986, Meade et al. 1986). The redbase dace often spawns over gravel/pebble nests constructed by other minnows, such as the creek chub. Spawning occurs during spring when water temperatures exceed 18 degrees Celsius (Koster, 1939). Based on field and aquarium observations, the species has a habitat of jumping several centimeters out of the water to catch insects; therefore, a large portion of its diet consists of terrestrial insects (Schwartz and Norvell 1958).

Key This species currently persists in limited sections of the Licking River (HUC8

Habitat 05100101) and Upper Kentucky (HUC8 05100204) watersheds. In the Licking River drainage, historic and recent records are available for ten streams distributed along the Northern Forested Plateau Escarpment ecoregion near the northwestern margin of the Allegheny Plateau. Streams in this area are cool, clear, and typically have moderate to high gradients with rocky substrates. Logging and recreation are important land uses in this region (Woods et al. 2002).

This portion of the Licking River drainage has not been as severely impacted as the lower basin below Cave Run Lake, which has been subjected to excessive siltation from poor agricultural practices as well as sewage pollution (Burr and Warren 1986).

In the Red River drainage (Upper Kentucky), the species has been documented in seven streams, all of which are generally are of high quality and were rated as fully supporting of aquatic life by the Kentucky Division of Water (2000). Land within these watersheds is mostly rural and wooded; two-thirds of the Red River drainage is managed by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Daniel Boone National Forest (Kentucky Water Research Institute 2001).

Because of the cool, high gradient character of streams containing redbreast dace, they are also regarded as suitable waters for trout introduction. Trout that have been (and continue to be) stocked in several of these streams could potentially

diminish or extirpate redbreasted sunfish populations through predation.

Guilds Upland headwater streams in pools.

Statewide [Redbreasted Sunfish.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2E Stream channelization/ditching
- 2F Riparian zone removal (Agriculture/development)
- 2J Alteration of surface runoff patterns (flow/temp regimes)
- 2K Transportation routes (fords and crossings)

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5A Predation from introduced species. This has been linked to extirpation in other states (see comments and citation above).
- 5H Isolated populations (low gene flow)
- 5O Bait collection. A potential threat due to the colorful appearance of this minnow.

Siltation and increased turbidity

- 1C Road construction
- 1E Silviculture
- 1F Recreational activities (atv, horseback riding)

CLASS Actinopterygii

Sicklefin Chub

Macrhybopsis meeki

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	H	G3	S1	G3	N

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend The range of the sicklefin chub is confined to the Missouri River and Mississippi

Comment River below the Missouri River confluence (Pflieger 1997). The species has been reported to be relatively abundant in portions of the Missouri River, but much less common in the Mississippi River (Pflieger 1997, Etnier and Starnes 1993). In the Mississippi River, it occurs primarily from western Kentucky (below mouth of Ohio River) north to the mouth of the Missouri River. Records are rare in the lower Mississippi River and are thought to be accidental occurrences (Ross 2001). With the exception of Missouri, the sicklefin chub is listed as imperiled to critically imperiled in states throughout its range (Natureserve 2008). It was listed as a federal candidate species in 1995 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995), and is listed as Endangered by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (2005). The American Fisheries Society lists the species as vulnerable based on present or threatened destruction, modification, or reduction of the species' habitat or range (Jelks et al. 2008).

S-Trend	Decreasing
S-Trend	Very few records are available for this species in the Mississippi River in western
Comment	<p>Kentucky. This has been due mostly to difficulties with capturing small benthic fishes in large river habitats. Etnier and Starnes (1993) suggested that the species is probably more common in the Mississippi River than records indicate. Results of recent surveys using benthic trawls in the Mississippi River support this premise to some extent, but additional data are needed to assess long-term population trends; short-term data suggest that this species is uncommon and may be declining (Herzog 2004).</p>
Habitat /	This is a small, benthic minnow limited to the turbid waters of the main channel
Life	of the Mississippi River in western Kentucky. Recent benthic trawl surveys
History	<p>(2000-2001) produced individuals at a single location at Wolf Island (Herzog 2004). According to Herzog (2004), sicklefin and sturgeon chubs generally utilize similar habitats during particular times of the year (e.g., February-March), but partition themselves by age class, size, and species at other times. The sicklefin chub apparently occupies deeper and swifter water than the sturgeon chub. Like the sturgeon chub, it has characteristics typical of fishes adapted to low light conditions of large turbid rivers, including reduced eyes partially covered by skin and well-developed external taste buds. The food habits of the sicklefin chub are poorly known, but it is probably a bottom feeder relying on taste to locate its food (Pflieger 1997). Other aspects of its biology are unknown, but it is thought to spawn in the spring based on young-of-year</p>

individuals in collections taken during July from the Missouri River (Etnier and Starnes 1993, Pflieger 1997).

Key Records for this species are available for the Lower Mississippi-Memphis (HUC8

Habitat 08010100) and Lower Ohio (05140206) watershed units; in the latter unit, two historic records are available, including one from the lower Ohio and one from the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois (Burr and Warren 1986). Sections of the Mississippi River where this species has been found are impacted by channel modifications made to enhance barge traffic. No reach of the Mississippi River or its tributaries in western Kentucky are rated as fully supporting aquatic life. Most (64%) offer only partial support, while 36% are considered non-supportive (Kentucky Division of Water 2002).

Guilds Large rivers in current.

Statewide [Sicklefin Chub.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2A Navigational dredging/Commercial dredging
- 2B Gravel/sand removal or quarrying (e.g., mineral excavation)
- 2C Construction/Operation of impoundments (migration barrier)
- 2G Water level fluctuations

2J Alteration of surface runoff patterns (flow/temp regimes)

CLASS Actinopterygii

Spring Cavefish

Forbesichthys agassizii

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	N	G4G5	S4S5	G4	S4

G-Trend Decreasing

G-Trend The spring cavefish has a localized distribution, occurring in springs and caves

Comment from the Highland Rim of the Tennessee River drainage in Tennessee, middle and lower Cumberland drainage, upper Barren Green drainages of Kentucky, Ohio and Mississippi River tributaries near their junction in western Kentucky and southern Illinois, and a single population west of the Mississippi River in Missouri (Etnier and Starnes 1993, Pflieger 1997). Some populations are now considered threatened or vulnerable, prompting the American Fisheries Society to add this species to its list of imperiled freshwater and diadromous fishes of North America (Jelks et al. 2008). It is critically imperiled in Missouri and Illinois along the northern and western periphery of its range (Natureserve 2008).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend The spring cavefish has been reported to be occasional and at times abundant in

Comment caves, springs, and spring-fed streams near the Ohio River, Livingston County,

through Land Between the Lakes, Red River (Cumberland River drainage), and the Barren River drainage to Mammoth Cave; it is uncommon in the Pond and Middle Green River drainages (Burr and Warren 1986). Most known occurrences are on private land. A comprehensive survey of this species in Kentucky needs to be conducted to identify and protect critical habitat.

Habitat / Life History This species is a facultative cave dweller of the Highland Rim and Shawnee Hills physiographic areas. It occurs in cave streams and occasionally around the mouths of springs and in spring-fed swamps and small streams (Burr and Warren 1986). Most known life history information is based on populations in southern Illinois. Adults apparently spawn in subterranean habitats during late winter (Smith and Welch 1978). Fecundity averages about 100 ova per female, and sexual maturity is reached at age 1 (Poulson 1963); maximum life span is estimated at 3 years (Smith and Welch 1978). Hill (1968) reported a diet of midge larvae, tiny worms, and microcrustaceans. This study also documented cannibalism among individuals when residing in subterranean habitats.

Key Habitat This species is known from caves, springs, and spring-fed streams in the following HUC8 watersheds: Lower Ohio-Bay (05140203), Tradewater (05140205), Lower Cumberland (05130205), Kentucky Lake (06040005), Pond (05110006), Middle Green (05110003), Red (05130206), and Barren (05110002).

Habitat conditions fully supporting aquatic life range from 20% in the Pond River drainage to 93% in the Barren River drainage. Apart from caves and

springs contained within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, most habitats supporting populations of this species are on private land.

Guilds Cave streams, Lowland Streams in slackwater.

Statewide [Spring Cavefish.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2H Wetland loss/drainage/alteration
- 2I Periodic cessation or removal of spring flows or seeps
- 2J Alteration of surface runoff patterns (flow/temp regimes)

Biological/ consumptive uses

- 5H Isolated populations (low gene flow)

Point and non-point source pollution

- 4B Waste water discharge (e.g., sewage treatment)
- 4E Agricultural runoff – including fertilizers/animal waste, herbicides, pesticides
- 4G Chemical spills and contaminants (applied and accidental)
- 4H Confined animal operations

Siltation and increased turbidity

- 1D Urbanization/Development General Construction

CLASS Actinopterygii

Sturgeon Chub

Macrhybopsis gelida

Federal Status	Heritage Status	GRank	SRank	GRank (Simplified)	SRank (Simplified)
N	H	G3	S1	G3	N

G-Trend Unknown

G-Trend The sturgeon chub occurs in the Missouri River drainage and the main channel of

Comment the Mississippi River below the confluence of the Missouri River (Pflieger 1997).

It is more widespread in the Missouri River drainage than the sicklefin chub (Etnier and Starnes 1993, Jenkins 1980). Like the sicklefin chub, it has been reported to be relatively abundant in portions of the Missouri River, but much less common in the Mississippi River (Pflieger 1997, Etnier and Starnes 1993). The species is rare in the lower Mississippi River below the confluence of the Missouri River south to Louisiana (Etnier and Starnes 1993, Burr and Warren 1986, Robison and Buchanan 1988). The sturgeon chub is listed as critically imperiled in states east of the Mississippi River (Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee), vulnerable in Missouri, possibly extirpated in Iowa, and imperiled to critically imperiled in states containing the upper Missouri River drainage (Natureserve 2008). It was listed as a federal candidate species in 1995 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995), and is listed as Endangered by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (2005). The American Fisheries Society lists

the species as vulnerable based on present or threatened destruction, modification, or reduction of the species' habitat or range (Jelks et al. 2008).

S-Trend Unknown

S-Trend Like the sicklefin chub, very few records are available for this species in the

Comment Mississippi River in western Kentucky (Burr and Warren 1986, Herzog 2004).

This has been due mostly to difficulties with capturing small benthic fishes in large river habitats. The species was captured recently along with the sicklefin chub in benthic trawl samples in the Mississippi River at Wolf Island in western Kentucky; short-term data suggest that this species is uncommon, but not rare, and that its numbers are stable (Herzog 2004).

Habitat / This is a small, benthic minnow limited to the turbid waters of the main channel

Life of the Mississippi River in western Kentucky. Recent benthic trawl surveys

History (2000-2001) produced sturgeon and sicklefin chubs at a single location at Wolf Island (Herzog 2004). According to Herzog (2004), both species generally utilize similar habitats during particular times of the year (e.g., February-March), but partition themselves by age class, size, and species at other times. The sturgeon chub apparently occupies shallower depths (68% captured at less than 2 m) than the sicklefin chub (69% captured at greater than 4 m). Like the sicklefin chub, it has characteristics typical of fishes adapted to low light conditions of large turbid rivers, including reduced eyes partially covered by skin and numerous taste buds covering the head, body, and fins; in addition, the sturgeon chub has peculiar

keeled dorsolateral scales (Etnier and Starnes; Pflieger 1997). The food habits of the sicklefin chub are poorly known, but it is probably a bottom feeder relying on taste to locate its food (Pflieger 1997). Pflieger (1997) surmised that the spawning habits of this species are probably like those of the speckled chub (eggs deposited in deep water in swift current), since the two species are known to hybridize. Spawning is thought to occur in late spring or early summer, based on tubercled males taken in May and late June (Robison and Buchanan 1988).

Key Records for this species are available for the Lower Mississippi-Memphis (HUC8

Habitat 08010100) and Lower Ohio (05140206) watershed units; the latter record is actually from the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois (Burr and Warren 1986).

Sections of the Mississippi River where this species has been found are impacted by channel modifications made to enhance barge traffic. No reach of the Mississippi River or its tributaries in western Kentucky are rated as fully supporting aquatic life. Most (64%) offer only partial support, while 36% are considered non-supportive (Kentucky Division of Water 2002).

Guilds Large rivers in current.

Statewide [Sturgeon Chub.pdf](#)

Map

Conservation Issues

Aquatic habitat degradation

- 2A Navigational dredging/Commercial dredging
 - 2B Gravel/sand removal or quarrying (e.g., mineral excavation)
 - 2C Construction/Operation of impoundments (migration barrier)
 - 2G Water level fluctuations
 - 2J Alteration of surface runoff patterns (flow/temp regimes)
-

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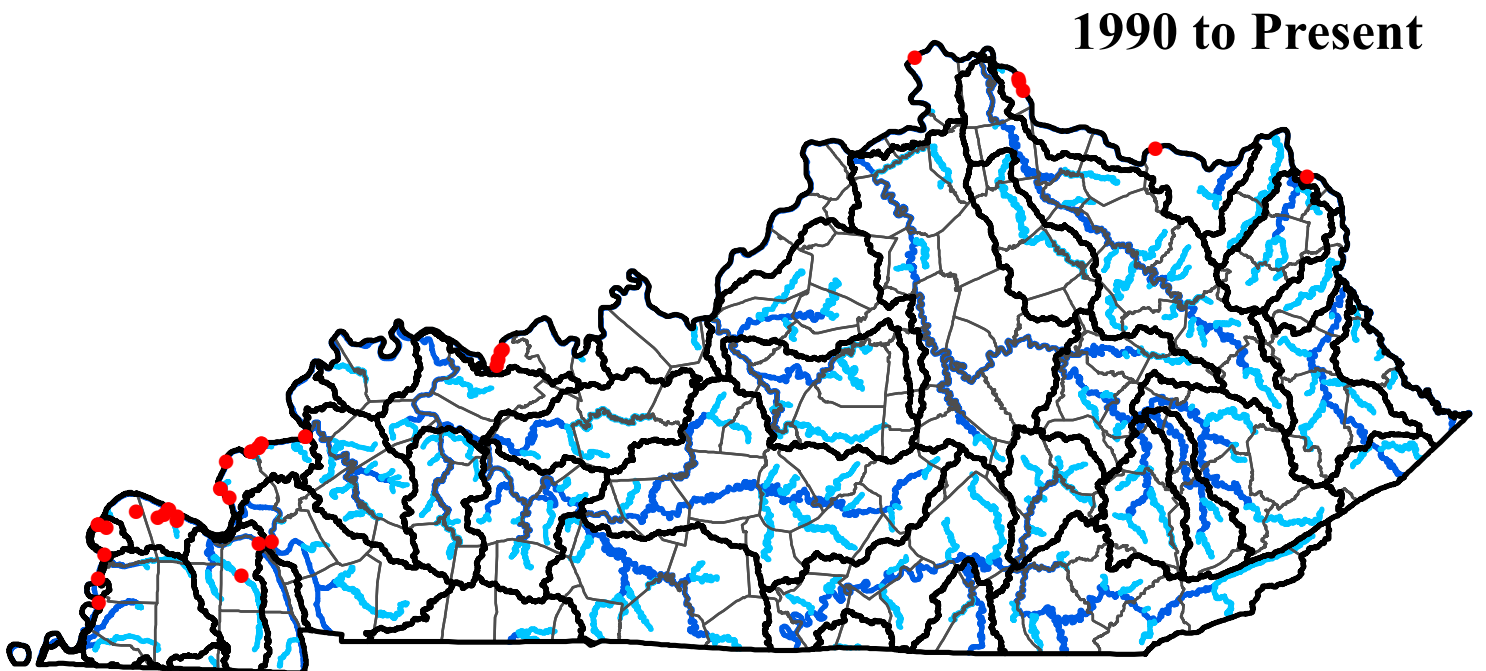
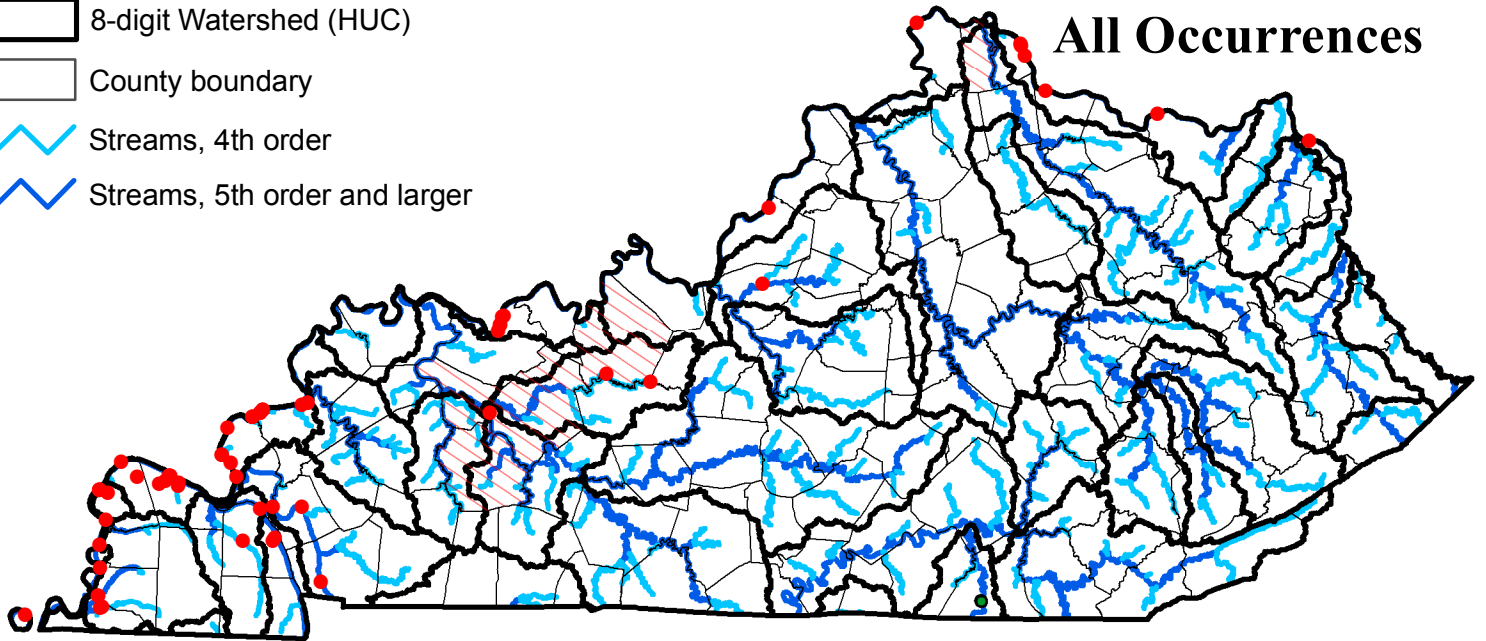
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Black Buffalo

Ictiobus niger

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- Streams, 4th order
- Streams, 5th order and larger

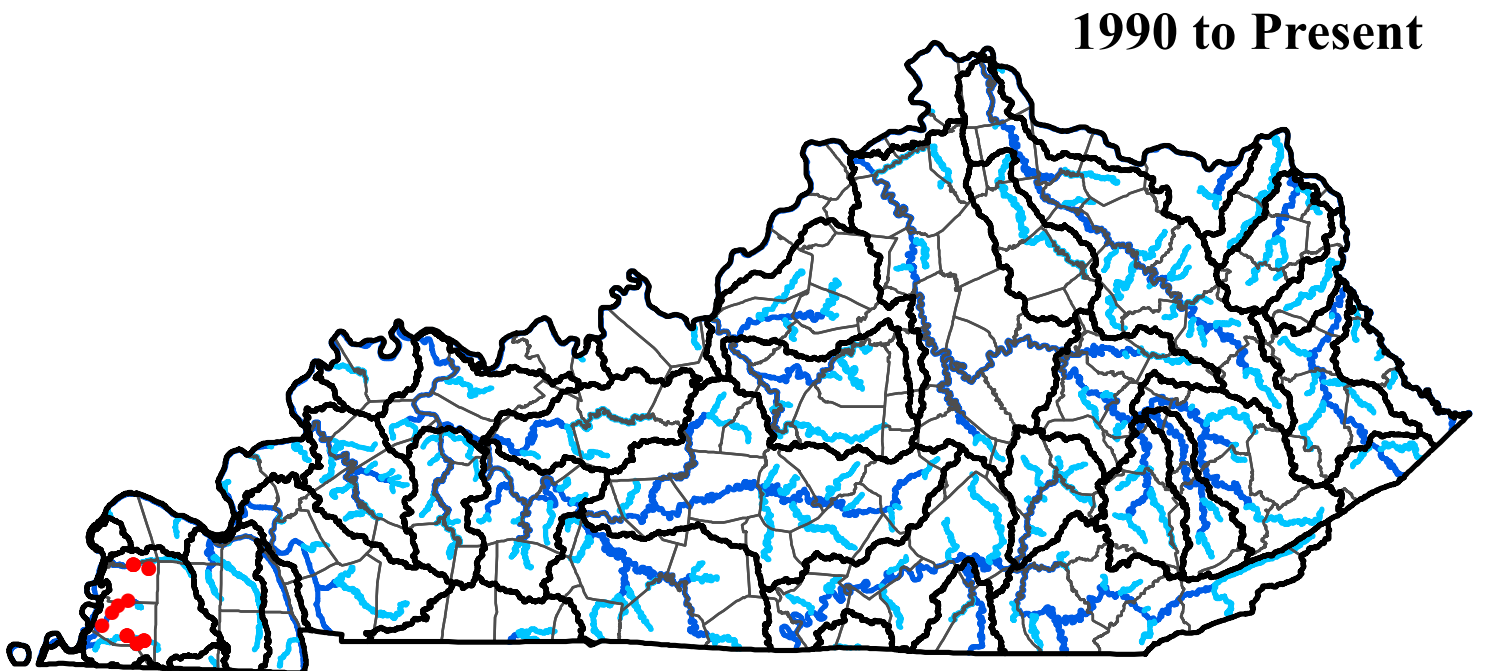
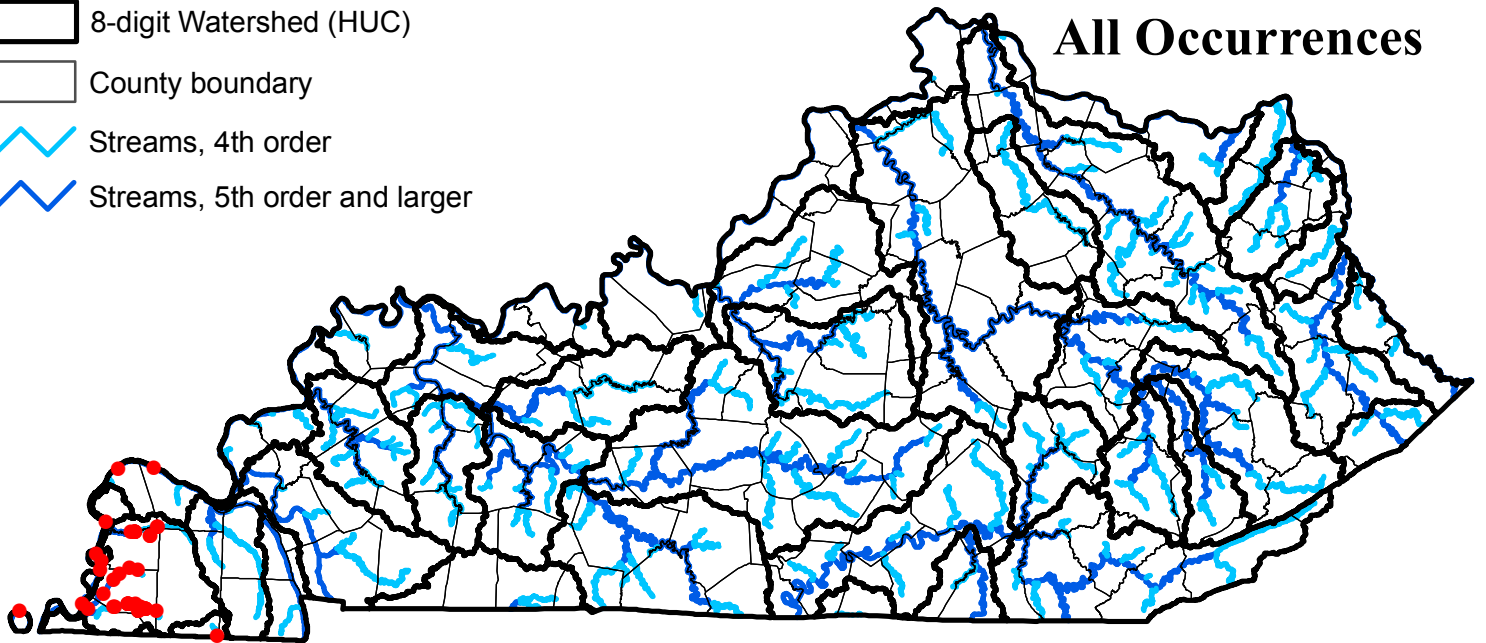


Blacktail Shiner

Cyprinella venusta

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▒ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- ▬ Streams, 4th order
- ▬ Streams, 5th order and larger

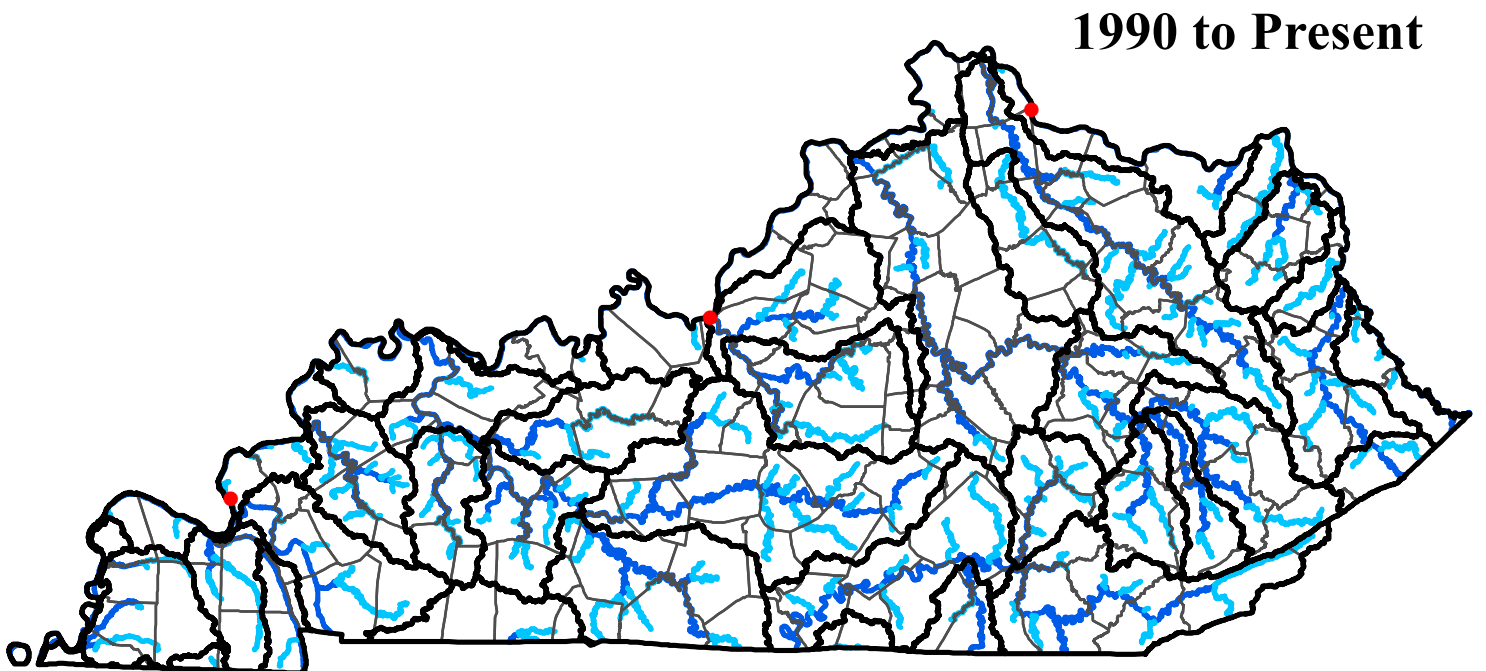
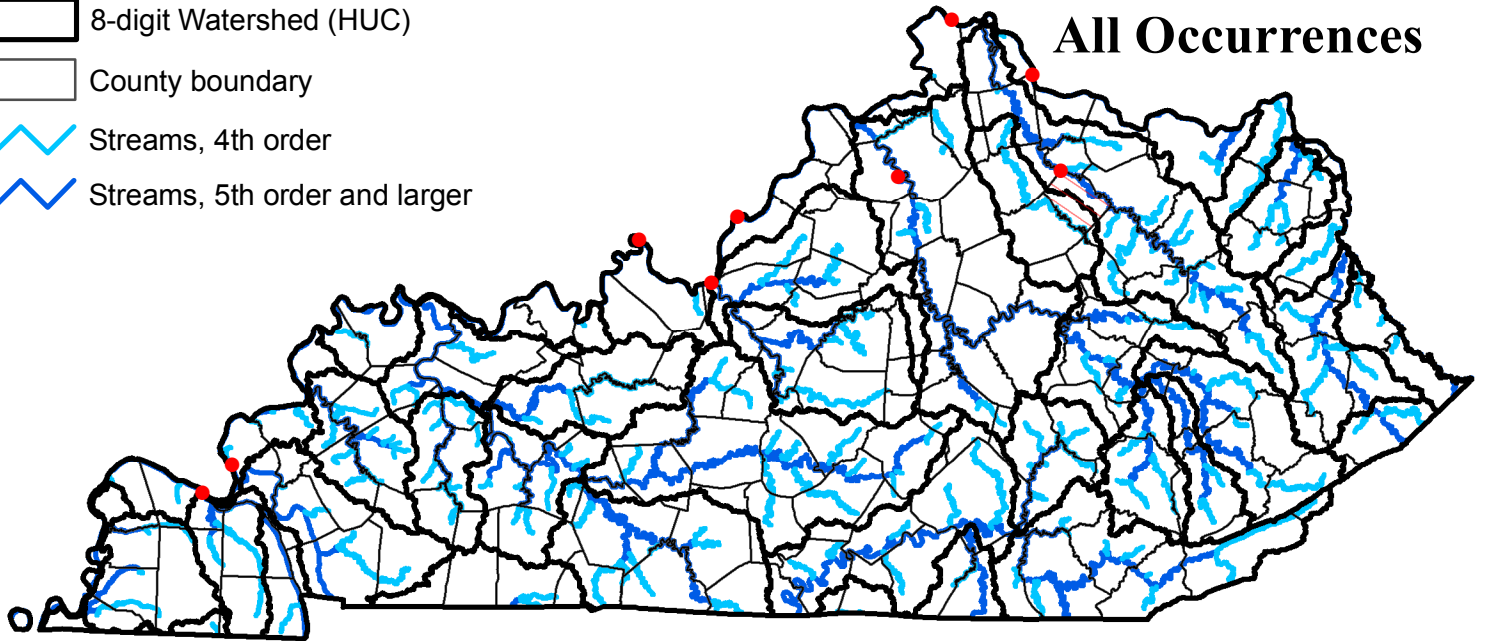


Burbot

Lota lota

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- Streams, 4th order
- Streams, 5th order and larger

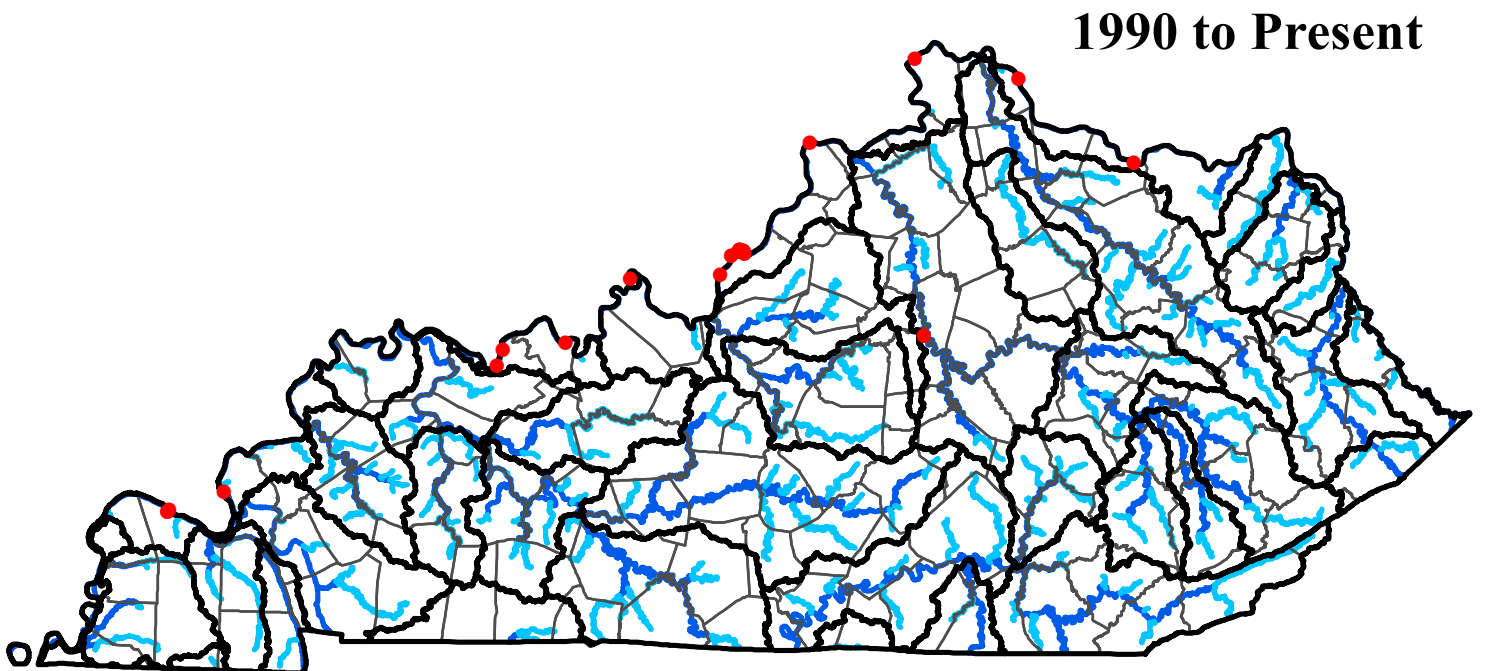
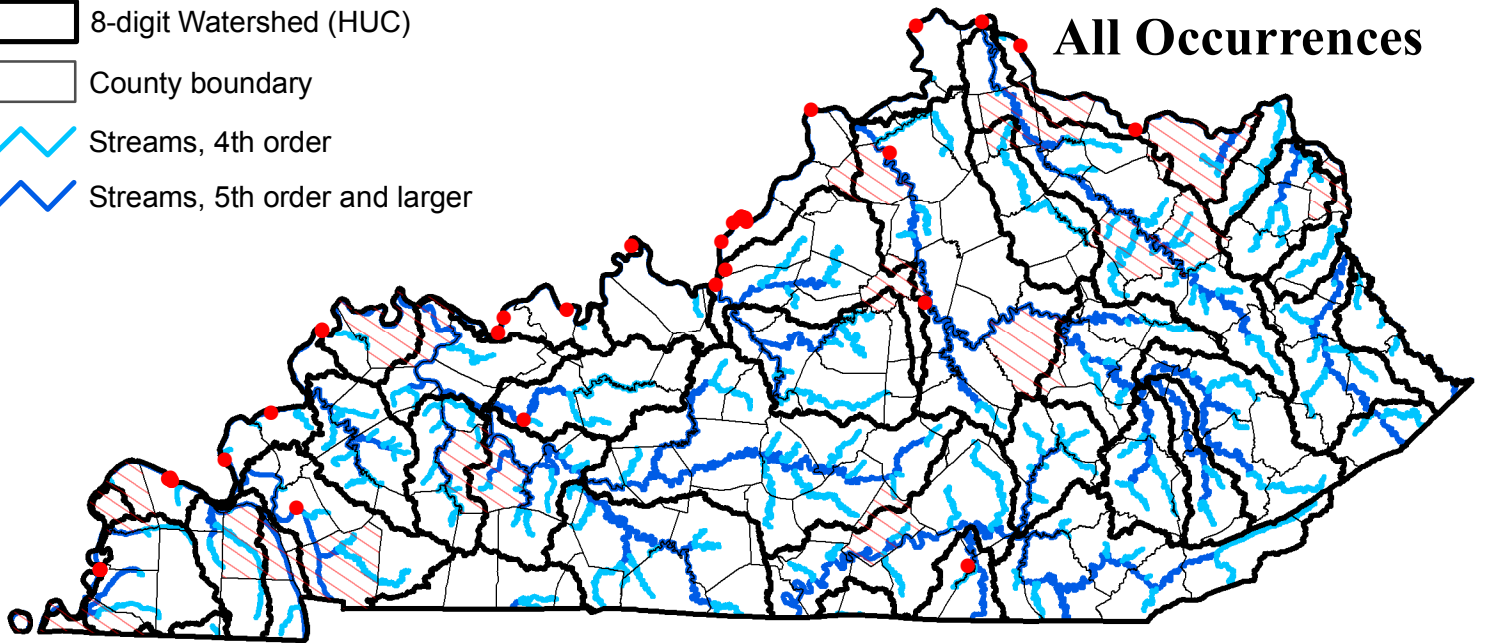


Paddlefish

Polyodon spathula

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- Streams, 4th order
- Streams, 5th order and larger

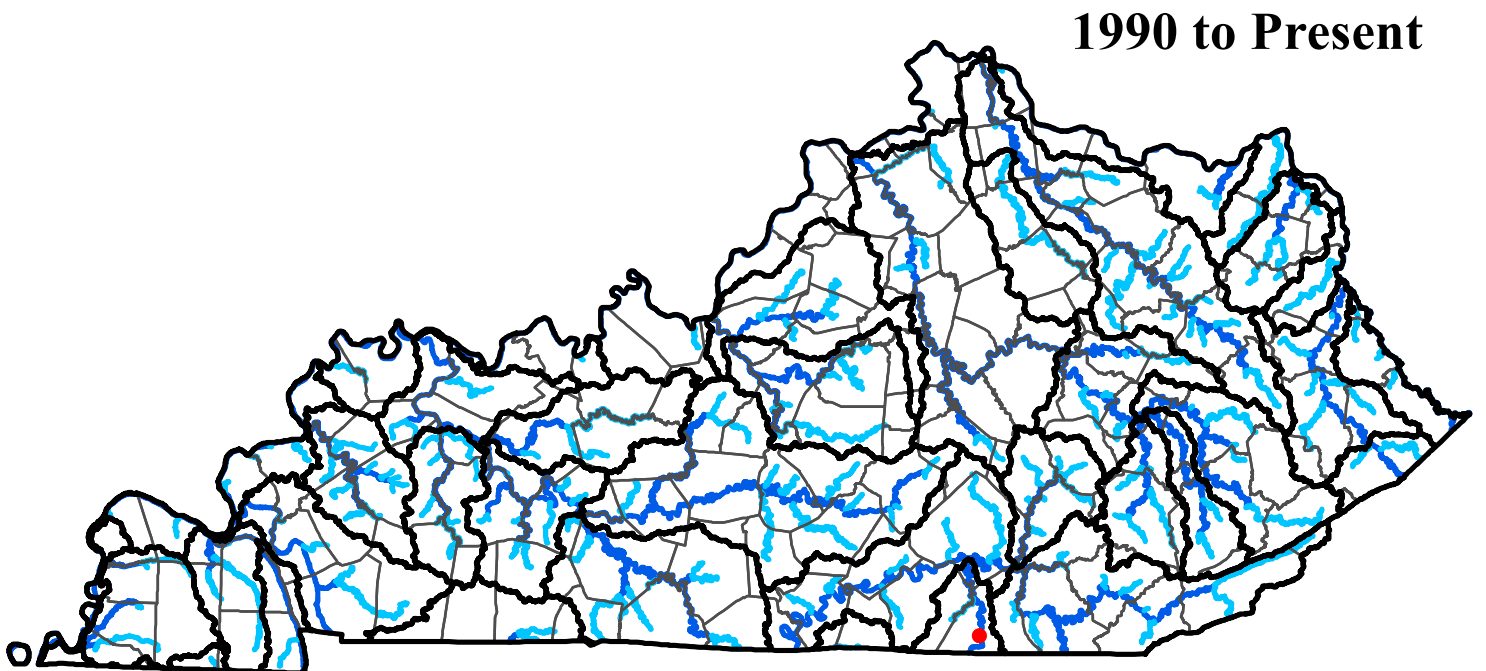
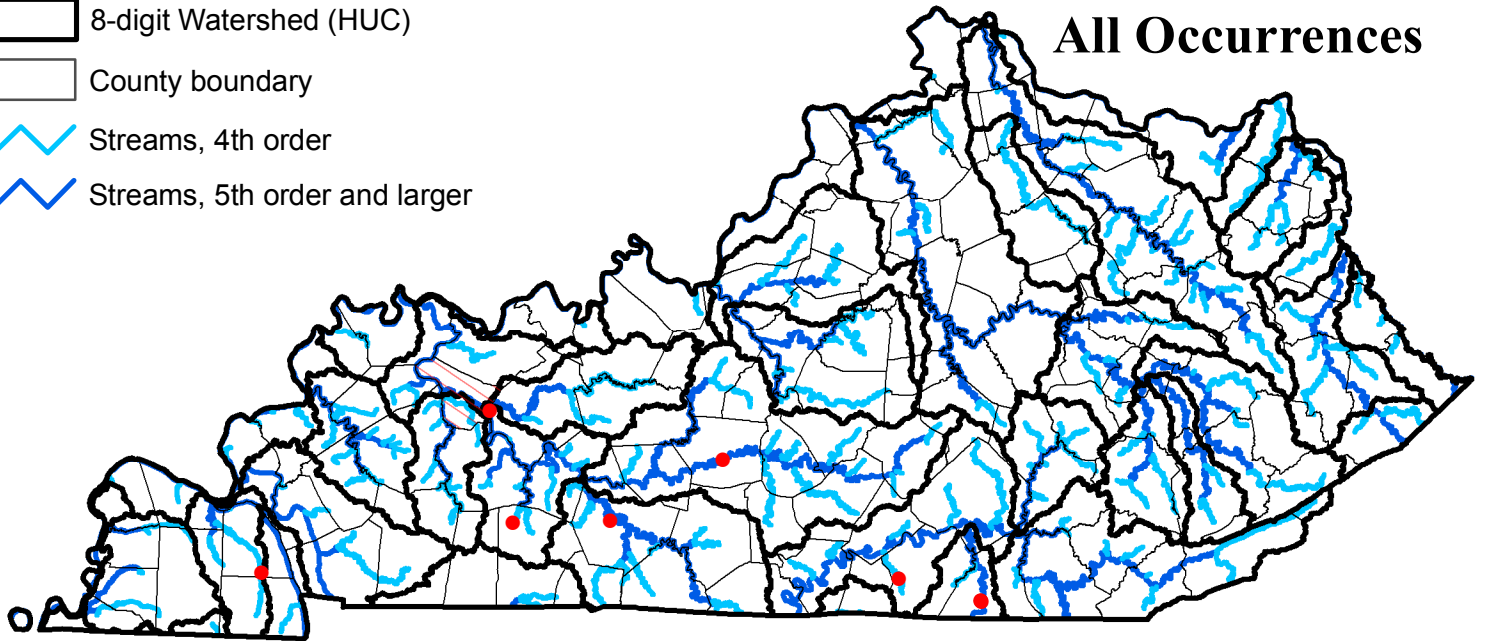


Pallid Shiner

Hybopsis amnis

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- Streams, 4th order
- Streams, 5th order and larger

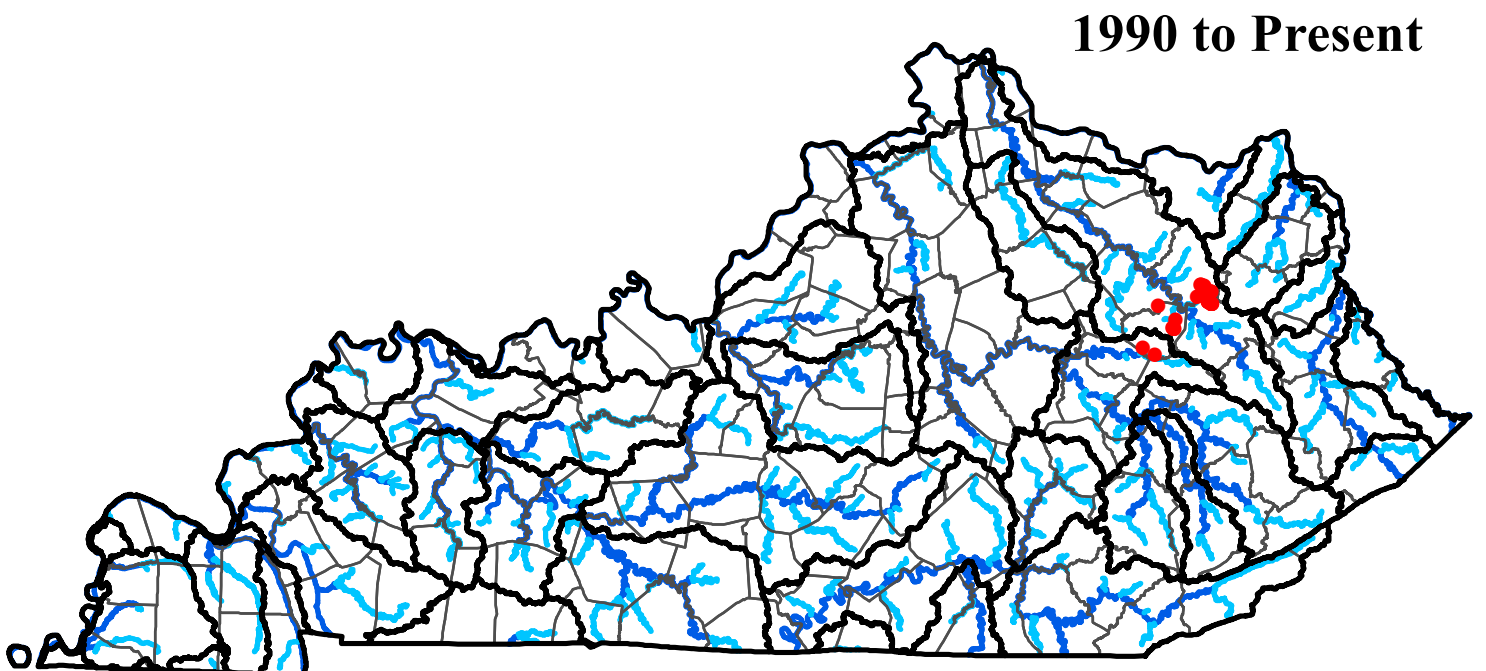
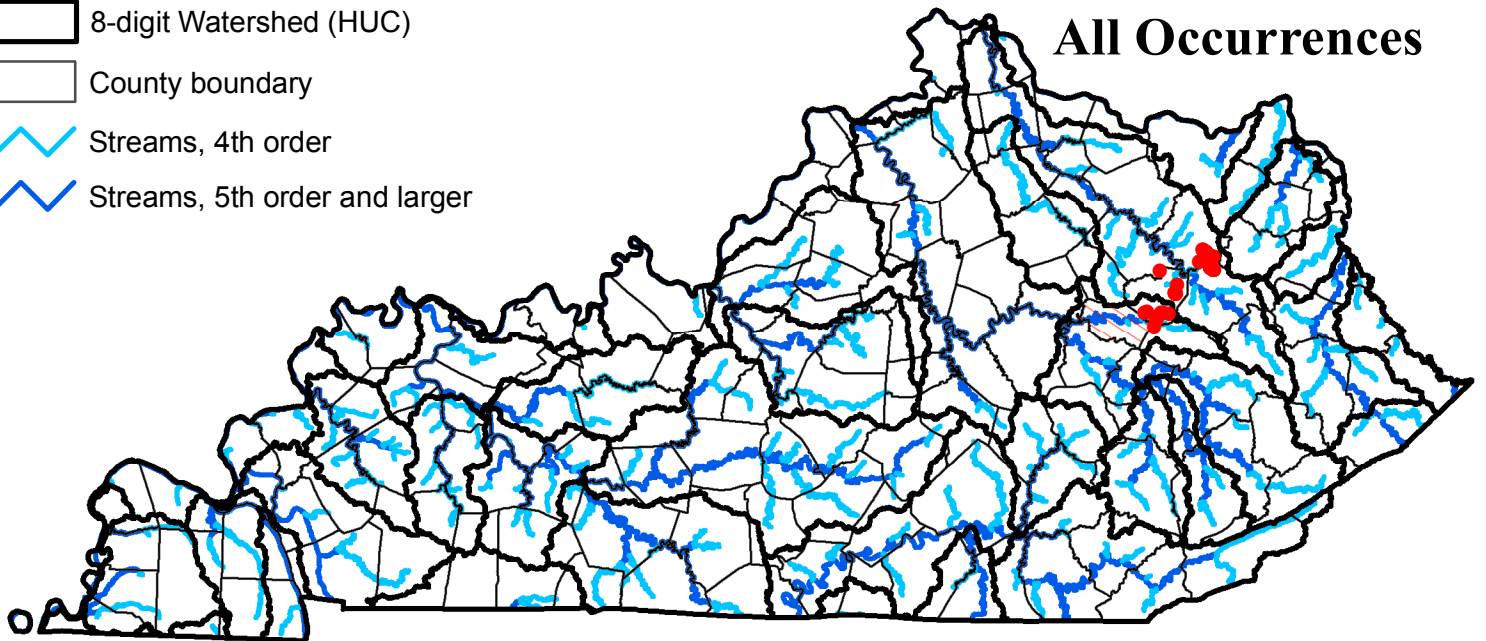


Redside Dace

Clinostomus elongatus

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- Streams, 4th order
- Streams, 5th order and larger

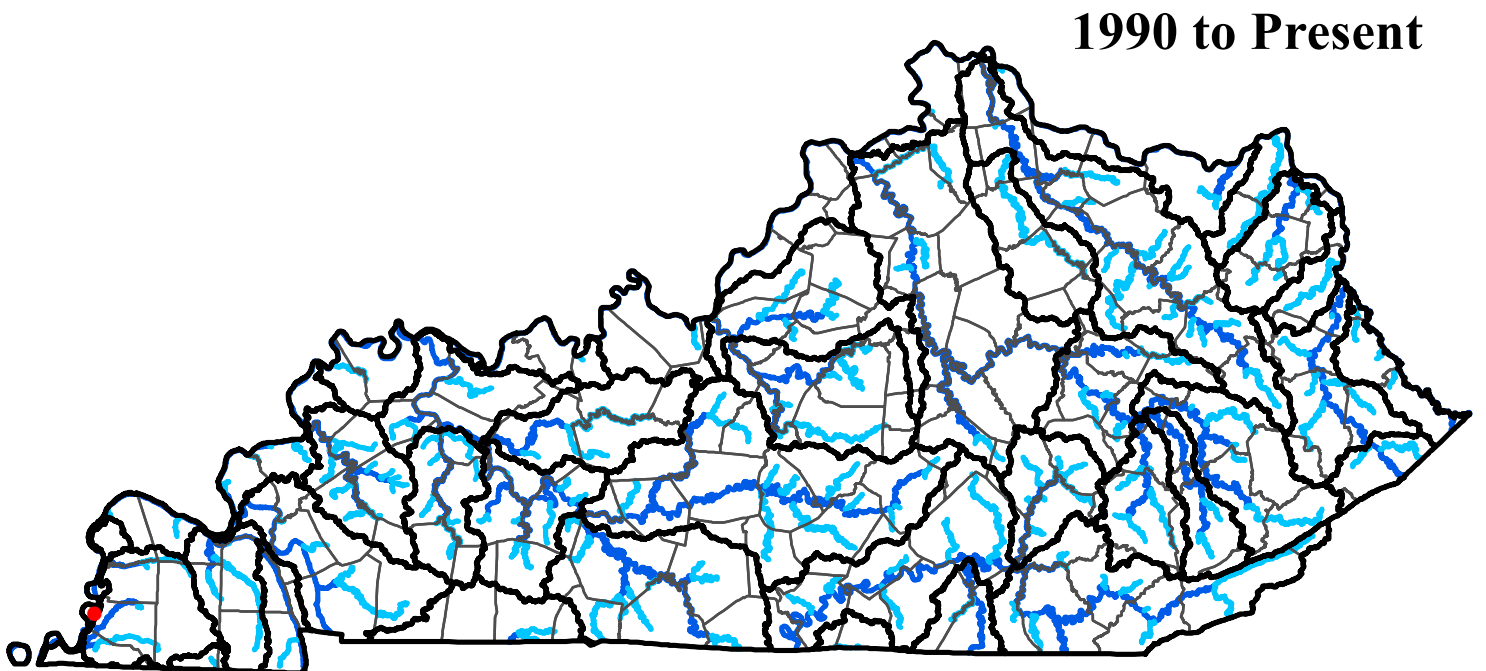
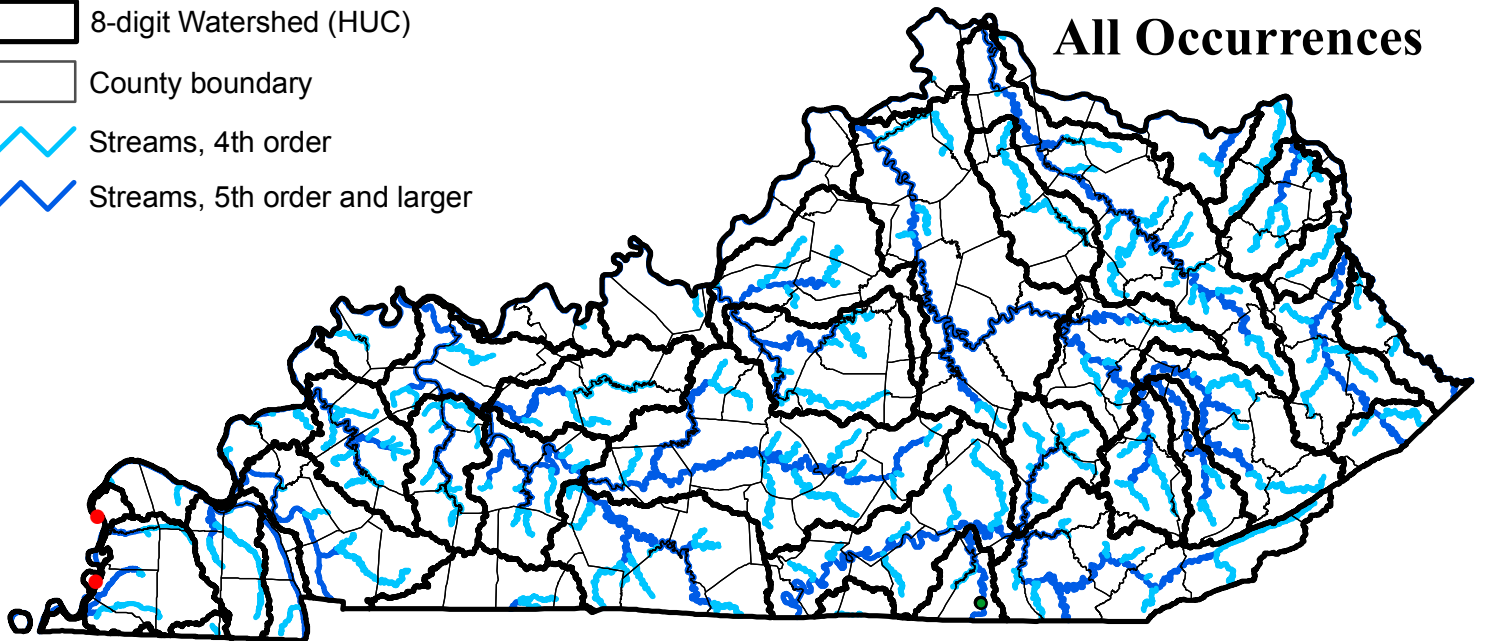


Sicklefin Chub

Macrhybopsis meeki

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- ▬ Streams, 4th order
- ▬ Streams, 5th order and larger

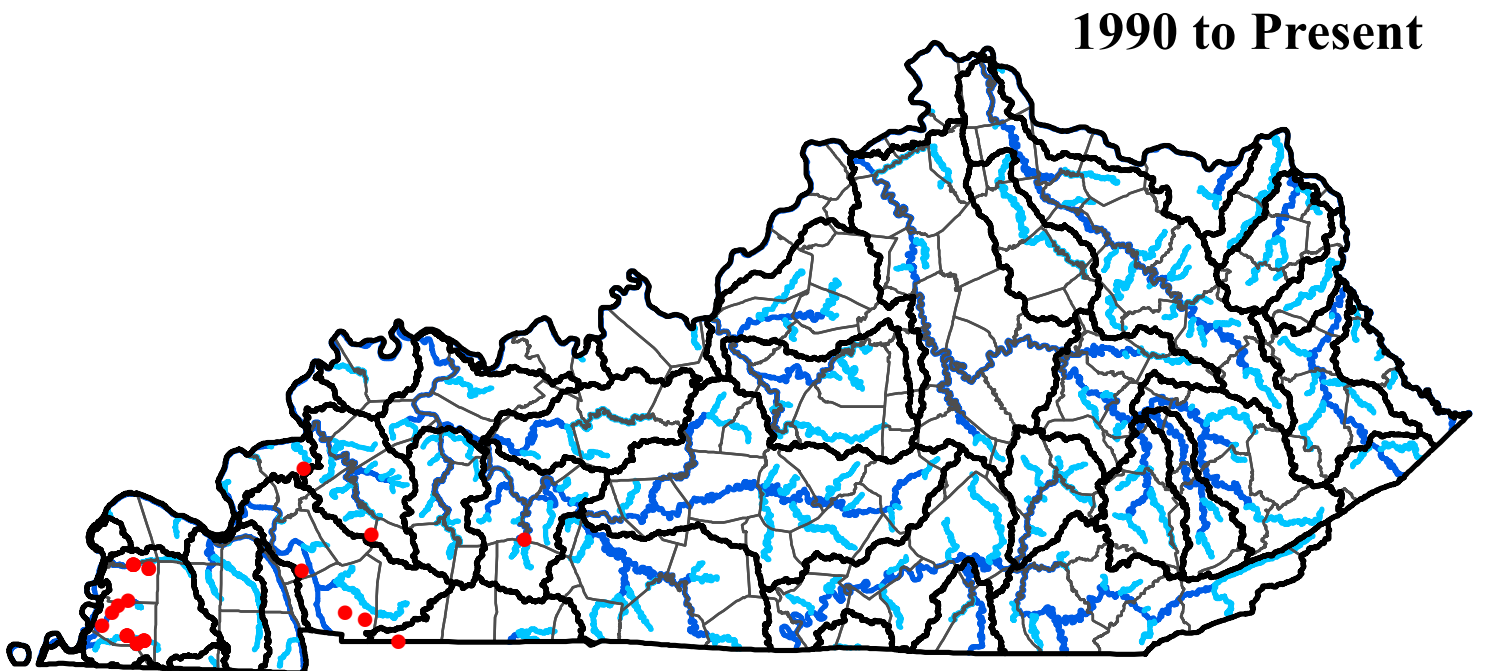
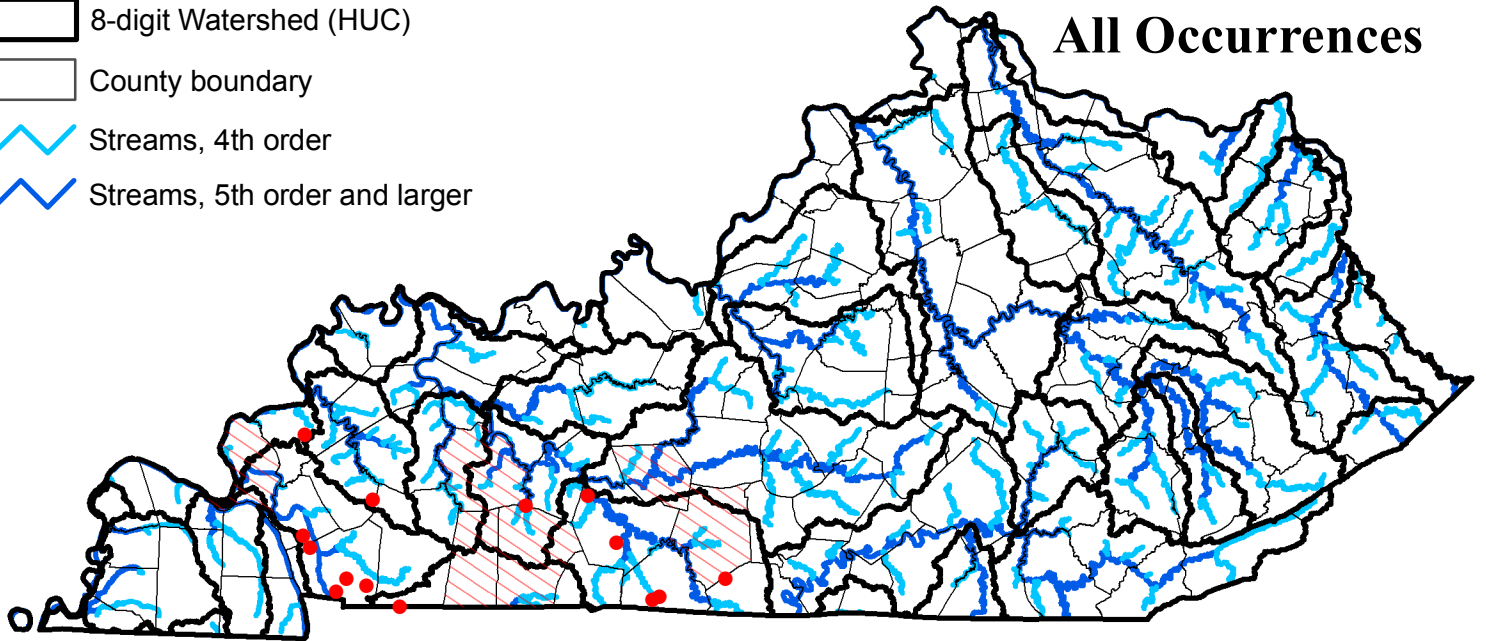


Spring Cavefish

Forbesichthys agassizii

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- Streams, 4th order
- Streams, 5th order and larger

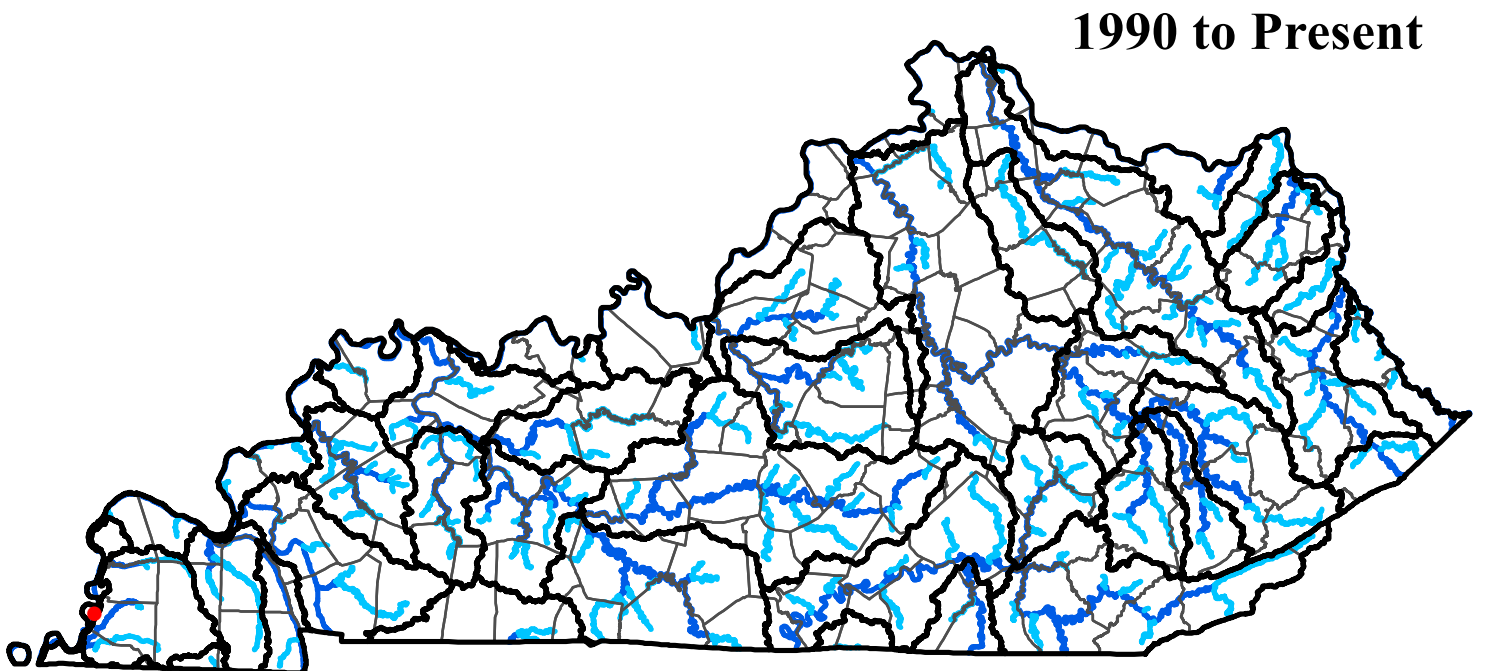
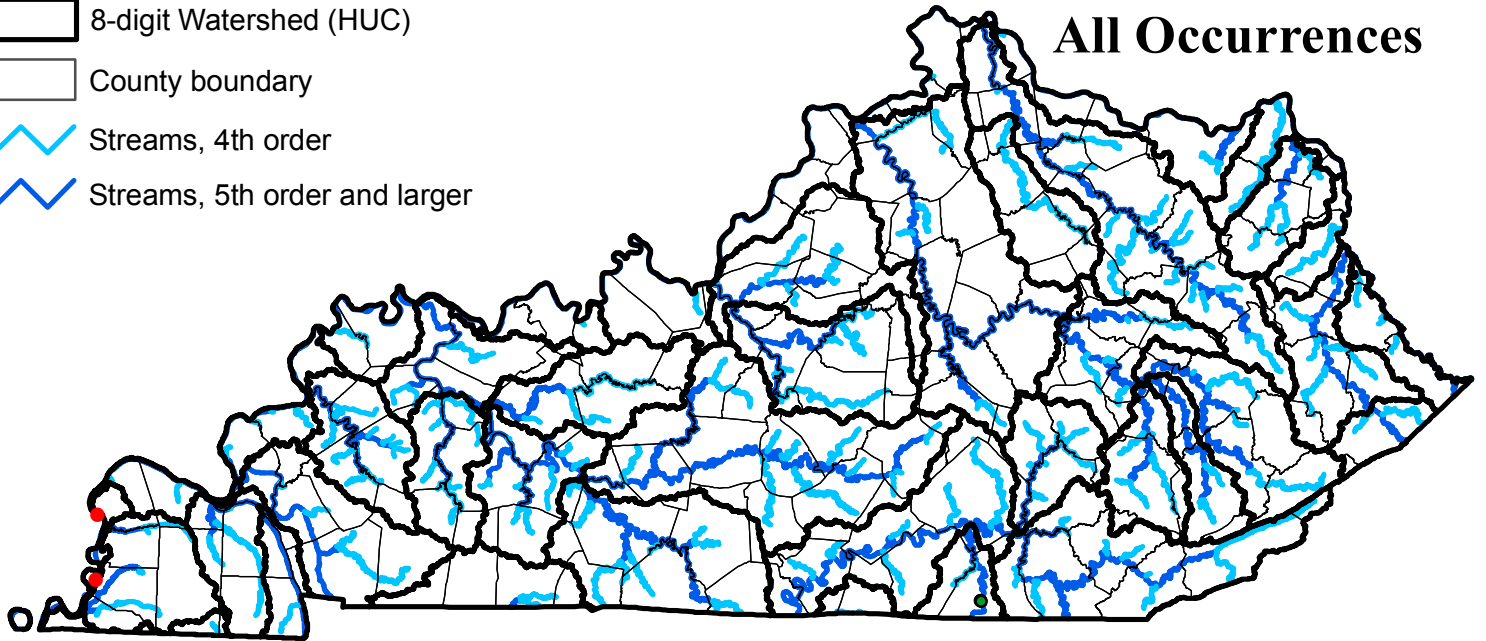


Sturgeon Chub

Ictiobus niger

(Data current as of July 15, 2010)

- Point occurrences
- ▨ Quad occurrences
- ▨ County occurrences
- ▭ 8-digit Watershed (HUC)
- ▭ County boundary
- Streams, 4th order
- Streams, 5th order and larger



Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change in Kentucky

A Strategy of Resilience



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Executive Summary

Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) currently lists 301 species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). These SGCN collectively depend on ten terrestrial and ten aquatic habitat guilds represented in the Wildlife Action Plan. All of Kentucky's habitat guilds are currently threatened by fragmentation, degradation, and potential loss of function as described by the 79 conservation issues listed in the WAP (Appendix 3.1). Global climate change has the potential to compound existing threats to Kentucky's species and habitats of conservation concern; and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) predicts the southeastern United States may be vulnerable to the worst of global warming's effects (EPA 2010a). In light of this threat, biologists and land managers have begun to plan for these negative impacts. Although it is not yet known how climate changes may affect Kentucky's ecosystems, global models are rapidly being developed, refined, and down-scaled. At the continental or hemispheric scale of modeling, existing climate change models are not very effective for informing regional and state-level management actions. Kentucky-specific predictions vary greatly depending on projected carbon emissions and predictive model used. For example, The ClimateWizard's (2008) high emission scenarios for Kentucky range from a 10% predicted decrease in precipitation to a 30% predicted increase in precipitation through 2080. The low emission scenarios range from a 10% predicted decrease in precipitation to a 15% predicted increase in precipitation (The ClimateWizard 2008). In light of the uncertainty in these models, Kentucky's climate change strategy is one of resilience, not resistance. Instead of resisting the impacts of climate change by reacting to model-driven predictions, we will adopt a strategy of increasing resilience through direct actions which

will increase the probability that species and habitats of conservation concern will adapt to impacts of climate change throughout Kentucky. This climate change chapter of Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan is meant to be a stand-alone first step towards planning for and mitigating against negative impacts of climate change. As climate scientists develop local and regionally-specific models with higher degrees of certainty, this plan will be revised to focus on detailed, specific actions to safeguard Kentucky's species and habitats of greatest conservation need. Below are the six specific goals of Kentucky's Climate Change Plan:

The Six specific goals of Kentucky's Climate Change Plan are as follows:

Goal 1: Conserve and restore functioning ecosystems in Kentucky

Goal 2: Create or protect "key" or "concentrating" habitats

Goal 3: Implement multi-agency plans for wildlife corridors/connectivity in Kentucky

Goal 4: Monitor fish, wildlife, and ecosystem responses to climate change

Goal 5: Evaluate the effectiveness of actions implemented as a result of Kentucky's Climate Change chapter, and adaptively manage populations and habitats based on monitoring results

Goal 6: Continue efforts to educate the public about wildlife conservation and continue efforts to stay optimally informed of current climate change predictions and observed climate change.

Intent of Climate Change Chapter of the Wildlife Action Plan

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) will utilize existing climate change resources and await refined models instead of investing time and money into independent modeling efforts. In light of the need for refined climate change models for regional and local scales, there will be considerable uncertainty about the rates of change that can be expected for both temperature and precipitation as a result of global changes in climate (Karl and Trenberth 2003). Consequently KDFWR's climate change strategy is one of resilience, not resistance (Millar et al. 2007). Instead of resisting the impacts of climate change by reacting to model-driven predictions, Kentucky will adopt a strategy of increasing resilience through direct actions which will increase the probability that species and habitats of conservation concern will adapt to impacts of climate change throughout Kentucky. This Climate Change chapter will be adaptively managed and revised as new information becomes available. KDFWR will review and revise the Climate Change chapter every ten years to build upon successful implementation efforts and edit/adapt parts of this plan that have been unsuccessful.

Climate Change Overview

The international scientific community began dedicated efforts to assess global climate change beginning in 1989 with the formation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This panel formed with the intent to provide unbiased, policy-neutral, scientific information pertaining to the state of climate change and any associated environmental and socio-economic consequences that may occur as a result of climate change. Honored with the

Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, the IPCC is an intergovernmental body, open to all member countries of the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization (<http://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization.htm>). The most recent IPCC report (IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007) states, “warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level.” One outcome of the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report was a paradigm shift concerning climate change within the scientific community and the general public. Primarily, the debate shifted from one questioning the existence of global climate change to one questioning the cause of global climate change (human caused versus natural). Regardless of the cause of global climate change, most governmental entities, non-profit organizations, and private entities have now acknowledged that global climate change is a phenomenon that will require planning actions on many different fronts. Over the past five years, conservation communities have begun to emphasize planning and mitigation efforts to minimize impacts of global climate change on biodiversity. The *Weather and Climate* section of a recent report issued by the U.S. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 2010) corroborated the 2007 IPCC report by providing long term trends for climate change indicators like temperature and sea level between 1901 and 2009. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report (2010) noted that average temperatures have risen across the lower 48 states since 1901, with an increased rate of warming over the past 30 years. The EPA report also states that some parts of the United States are warming more than others, with the North, West and Alaska seeing temperature increases greater than parts of the South (EPA 2010). Precipitation

trends reported by EPA indicate that eight of the top 10 years for extreme one-day precipitation events (between 1910 and 2008) have occurred since 1990, and sea levels between 1993 and 2008 rose twice as fast as the long term recorded trends (EPA 2010). As agencies come to a consensus that global changes in climate are occurring, the next step is to design and implement response plans.

State fish and wildlife management agencies aim to conserve game and non-game fish and wildlife resources for all citizens. In light of potential global climate change impacts to ecosystems, several strategies have emerged. The two main strategies employed by the conservation community to address potential changes are: 1) Strategies of resilience which seek to help fish, wildlife and their habitats adapt to climate change; and 2) Strategies of resistance which seek to use models to predict direct impacts of climate change and employ actions to prevent these changes from impacting fish and wildlife populations. Although direct impacts to fish and wildlife populations as a result of climate change are difficult to predict, state fish and wildlife agencies across the nation are dedicating thought to this issue in an attempt to proactively conserve fish and wildlife populations amidst predicted global changes in climate.

Historic Climate in Kentucky

Prior to making an action plan aimed at conserving fish and wildlife populations in the face of climate change, we must first obtain a thorough understanding of historic climate parameters within the Commonwealth. Climatic data for Kentucky has been collected since 1825 by various entities including: the U.S. Army, Smithsonian Institute, U.S.

Army Signal Corps, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Kentucky Climate Center. The below table (**Table 1**) displays temperature and precipitation changes for Kentucky between 1901-2008 and 1970 – 2008. Between 1901 and 2008, slight increases in temperature are evident in Kentucky for all seasons except summer, and for 1970 through 2008, increasing temperature trends are evident for all seasons (**Table 1**). Precipitation trends for Kentucky differ between 1901-2008 and 1970-2008, though statistical analyses of these data were not offered at the Kentucky Regional Climate Change Forum (Foster 2009). Between 1970 and 2008, decreased precipitation during the winter, spring, and summer months was offset by an increase in fall precipitation, resulting in a slight increase (1.3%) in annual precipitation amounts (Foster 2009). In contrast, between 1901 and 2008, precipitation amounts in Kentucky were 5.7% greater than the annual average (climate records for Kentucky date back to 1825) with a deficit of 9.3% in the winter and a 13% increase in fall precipitation when compared to average values (**Table 1**; Foster 2009). The Environmental Protection Agency’s draft report on climate change impacts to the southeastern United States (EPA 2010a) displays the trend of increasing drought conditions throughout Kentucky between 1958 and 2007.

Then Nature Conservancy’s ClimateWizard is another source of historical climate data for Kentucky. This model, developed by The Nature Conservancy, The University of Washington, and The University of Southern Mississippi, is a web based program that allows users to view historic temperature and rainfall maps, predictions of temperature and rainfall, and climate change projections based on various carbon emission scenarios

through 2080. The ClimateWizard is a publicly available resource accessed here: <http://www.climatewizard.org/>. ClimateWizard data for historical climate was provided by PRISM Group, Oregon State University, created 4 Feb 2007, while base climate projections were downscaled by Maureer et al. (2007) for use in ClimateWizard models. Historical climate data maps within the ClimateWizard are created from thousands of geographically distinct recording stations using Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Models (PRISM).


Table 1. Historic climate in Kentucky. *Temperature and precipitation changes for Kentucky. Data collected by the Kentucky Climate Center (<http://kyclim.wku.edu/dataSources.htm>). Table is based on statewide average temperature and precipitation. Values are calculated based on smoothed averages specific to 1901, 1970, and 2008. Smoothing is by LOESS nonparametric regression and 30-year span (Foster 2009).*

	Temperature Change in °F			Precipitation Change in %	
	1901-2008	1970-2008		1901-2008	1970-2008
Annual	0.9	1.4	Annual	5.7	1.3
Winter	2.2	1.9	Winter	-9.3	-0.7
Spring	0.6	0.9	Spring	10.0	-0.1
Summer	-0.6	0.8	Summer	6.1	-0.7
Fall	0.6	1.2	Fall	13.0	1.1

PRISM uses point measurements of precipitation and temperature to produce continuous estimates of yearly climatic parameters. More information about PRISM can be found here: <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu>.


Figure 1. Average Annual Precipitation for Kentucky 1951-2006 (Inches)

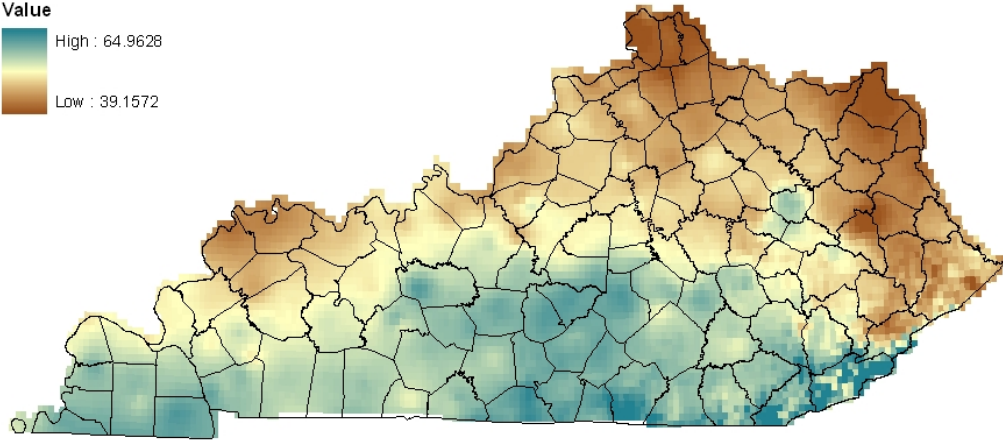
Legend

 County Boundary Polygons

Average annual precipitation inches

Value

 High : 64.9628
Low : 39.1572



Data from "PRISM Group, Oregon State University, <http://www.prismclimate.org>, created 4 Feb 2004."
Data delivered from The Nature Conservancy Climate Wizard <http://www.climatewizard.org/>, downloaded 1 Feb, 2010.



0 25 50 75 100 Miles

1:2,800,000

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Figure 2. Average Annual Temperature for Kentucky 1951-2006 (Degrees F)

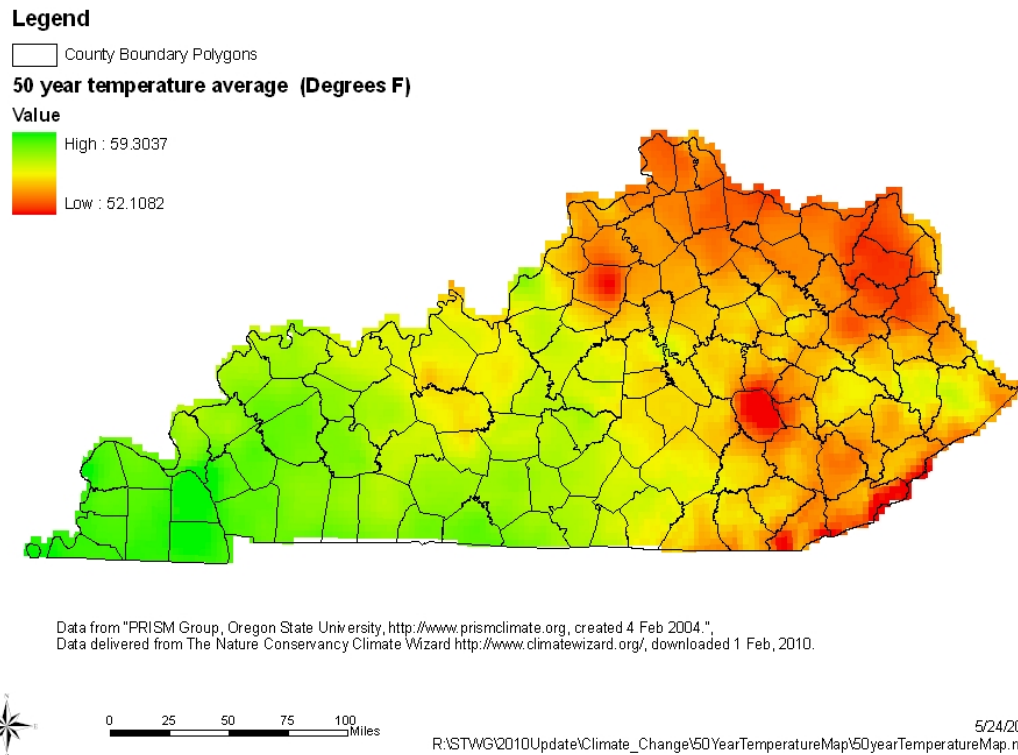


Figure 1 and **Figure 2** display The ClimateWizard data for average annual temperature and average annual precipitation amounts for the past 50 years (1951-2009).

The ClimateWizard models display average annual precipitation amounts (between 1951 and 2006) ranging from a high of 64.96 inches to a low of 39.16 inches (**Figure 1**). The northern parts of Kentucky are typically drier, with the northeastern portion of the state exhibiting the driest trends (Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Greenup, and Boyd Counties). Southern areas in Kentucky display higher annual precipitation averages, particularly the southeastern portion of the state. The wettest areas in Kentucky historically are in Harlan and Bell Counties, in the Black Mountain/Pine Mountain areas. Average annual temperature trends between 1951 and 2006 display a different pattern (**Figure 2**), with the eastern portion of the state generally cooler and the western portion of the state

displaying warmer trends. The ClimateWizard's average annual temperature trends in Kentucky between 1951 and 2006 range from an average annual low of 52.11° F (Jackson County, parts of Harlan and Bell Counties) to an average annual high of 59.31 ° F (all counties west of Land Between the Lakes). In contrast to the historic trends obtained from the ClimateWizard, the rate of precipitation change between 1901 and 2008 reported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Kentucky (*U.S. and Global Precipitation* 2010) displays a decreasing precipitation trend for southeastern Kentucky, no change in precipitation for Northeast Region, and increases in precipitation of between 1 and 10% for the remainder of Kentucky. Although southeastern Kentucky is historically the wettest region of the state (ClimateWizard 2008), this region of Kentucky has experienced the largest decrease, up to a 10% decrease, in precipitation between 1901 and 2008 (EPA 2010).

Current Climate Change Models and Climate Predictions for Kentucky

Within the past decade, numerous climate change models have been developed. Thus far, these models have been based on global trend data, then predictions have been “downscaled” to the regional, state, or county level. It is important to keep in mind that each time a model is “downscaled” the degree of model uncertainty increases. For climate change predictions, The ClimateWizard uses a global climate model output, from the World Climate Research Programme's Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 3 multi-model dataset (Meehl et al. 2007). These data were downscaled as described by Maurer et al. (2009) using the bias-correction/spatial downscaling method (Wood et al.

2004) to a 0.5 degree grid, based on the 1950-1999 gridded observations of Adam and Lettenmaier (2003). The ClimateWizard allows the user to select various carbon emission scenarios to evaluate the range of potential changes in temperature and precipitation that may occur over the next several decades.

Depending on the emission scenario, which assumes different values for global population, technology, energy, land use, economy, and agriculture, the ClimateWizard estimates increases in average annual temperatures between 3.6° and 5.1° F for Kentucky between 2006 and 2050 (**Figure 3**). The high emission models display greater temperature increases for northern counties in Kentucky, while the low emission models display greater temperature increases for the western portion of the state (e.g. Fulton, Hickman Counties). For all emission scenarios, southeastern Kentucky is expected to experience the least amount of change in average annual temperatures through 2050.

The ClimateWizard's precipitation predictions for Kentucky are much less consistent than temperature predictions. High emission scenarios range from a 10% decrease in precipitation to a 30% increase in precipitation, while low emission scenarios range from a 10% decrease in precipitation to a 15% increase in precipitation. **Figure 4** displays average annual percent precipitation change expected for Kentucky through 2050, using average values for all low emission models and average values for all high emission models. These models predict increases in precipitation ranging from 1.5% (using the low emission model) to 8.6% (using the high emission model). Greatest increases from average annual precipitation amounts are predicted to occur in the Bluegrass and Southeast regions of Kentucky for all emission scenarios, while the Western Coal Field

and Mississippi Embayment regions of the state appear to be least affected (see Appendix 1.6 for map of Kentucky's physiographic regions).

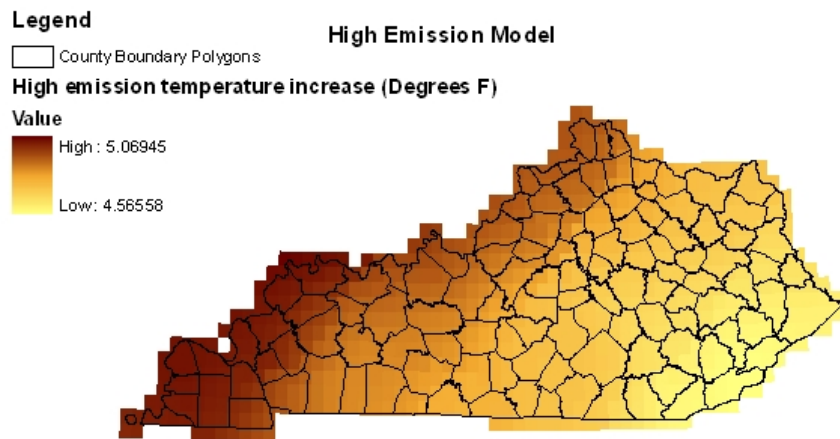
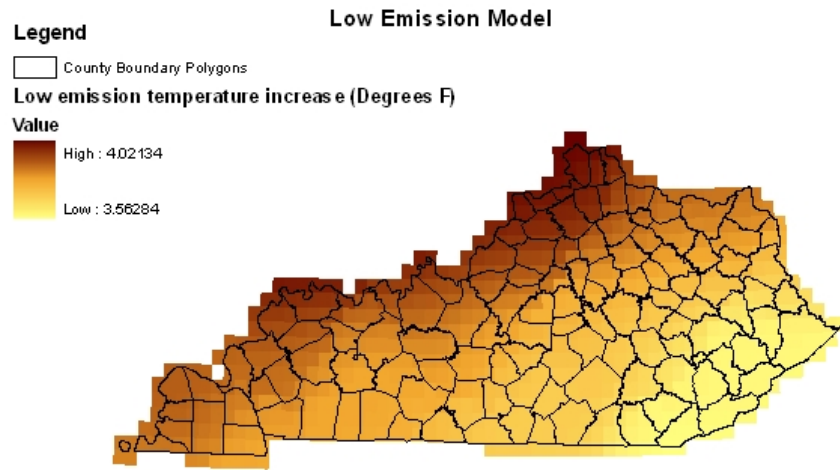
Regardless of deviations from average precipitation amounts, drought and flood events are predicted to be more frequent, which means rainfall intensity/duration is expected to fluctuate with global changes in climate, even if there is little overall departure from historic precipitation amounts. The number of days per year exceeding the 90th percentile for daily precipitation amounts have been increasing in the United States, and these events are responsible for a disproportionate share of the observed increases in total annual precipitation (Groisman et al. 1999; Karl and Knight 1998). The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency reported an increasing trend in extreme one-day precipitation events in the lower 48 states between 1990 and 2008 (EPA 2010).

Occurrence of extreme single-day precipitation events appeared to remain static between 1910 and 1980, but has recently risen in the lower 48 states. Between 1910 and 1980, approximately 10% of the land area in the lower 48 states experienced extreme one-day precipitation events in any given year. Between 1980 and 2008, 15% of land area in the lower 48 states received extreme one-day precipitation events (EPA 2010). Coupled with increasing trends in extreme single-day precipitation events, drought is expected to become more prevalent throughout the United States and globally (Le Houerou 1996).

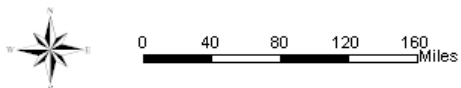
Horton (2009) displays drought trends for the United States between 1958 and 2007 and characterizes all of Kentucky as "increasing drought."

Figure 3. Predicted Average Temperature Increase for Kentucky through 2050 (Degrees F)



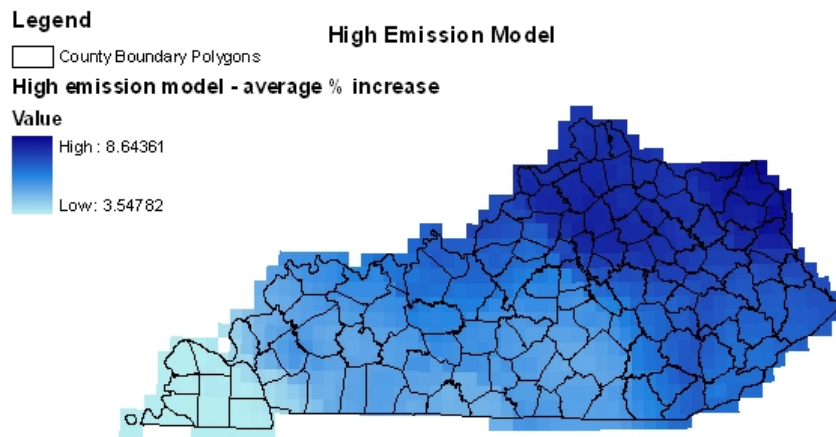
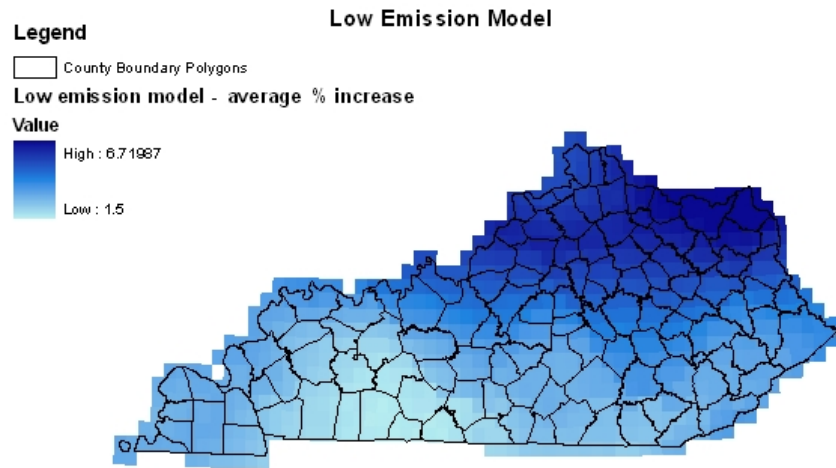
Data from the World Climate Research Programme's (WCRP's) Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 3 (CMIP3) multi-model dataset.

Data delivered from The Nature Conservancy Climate Wizard <http://www.climatewizard.org/>, downloaded 1 Feb, 2010.



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Figure 4. Average Annual Percent Precipitation Increase for Kentucky Predicted through 2050



Data from the World Climate Research Programme's (WCRP's) Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 3 (CMIP3) multi-model dataset.

Data delivered from The Nature Conservancy Climate Wizard <http://www.climatewizard.org/>, downloaded 1 Feb, 2010.



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Potential Impact of Changing Climates to Habitats of Greatest

Conservation Need in Kentucky

Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan lists ten terrestrial and ten aquatic habitat guilds which represent the ecosystems required by SGCN in Kentucky (Volume III, Appendix 3.5).

Although Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan lists 79 conservation issues for these habitats (Volume III, Appendix 3.1), habitat alteration and fragmentation are the two greatest threats to Kentucky's Species and habitats of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).

Many of the 79 conservation issues listed in the Wildlife Action Plan have the potential to cause major habitat changes which could result in population declines of SGCN.

Examples of conservation issues which negatively impact habitats include: stream channelization/ditching (Issue 2E), coal mining (Issue 1A), road construction (Issue 1C), and urban/residential development (Issue 3F). Climate change has the potential to exacerbate existing conservation threats to habitat guilds in Kentucky by altering both terrestrial and aquatic systems. **Table 2** lists Kentucky's terrestrial and aquatic guilds and the threats potentially posed by global climate change. These threats (**Table 2**) represent a "worst case scenario" of impacts to Kentucky's habitat guilds. It is important to note that human/nature/climate interactions are extremely difficult to forecast and the actual impacts of future climate change may be very different from the threats listed below.

Table 2. Ecosystem threats which may be exacerbated by climate change (e.g. warming temperatures, increased prevalence of drought, increased prevalence of flood conditions).

<i>Guild</i>	<i>Threats</i>
Cave Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to flood events and subsequent run-off into sink holes. • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds due to drought cycles. • Invasion of non-native species • Potential loss of nutrients in cave streams due to decreases in bat and cave invertebrate populations.
Large rivers in current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species • Channel alteration/dredging • Altered hydrology due to increased water demands as human populations shift inland
Large rivers in slackwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species • Channel alteration/dredging • Altered hydrology due to increased water demands as human populations shift inland
Lowland streams in riffle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species
Lowland streams in slackwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species
Medium to large streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species • Channel alteration/dredging
Small to medium streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species
Upland headwater streams in pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species
Upland streams in pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events. • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species
Upland streams in riffles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased siltation and turbidity caused by higher intensity/higher frequency of flood events.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds • Invasion of non-native species
Caves, rock shelters, and cliffines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Sandstone formations, particularly south facing faces, may become drier and uninhabitable to unique plant communities.
Cumberland highland forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Insect pest (e.g. Southern pine beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid) infestations may intensify. Overall forest health may be adversely affected by increased insect populations, since insect development is temperature dependent (Simberloff 2000). • South facing slopes may become more arid. • Extended periods of hot/dry weather may increase the frequency of wildfires
Emergent and shrub-dominated wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Wetland hydrology may be altered due to increasing temperatures and/or drought conditions.
Forested wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Wetland hydrology may be altered due to increasing temperatures and/or drought conditions • Forest cover may increase if extent of rising temperatures and/or drought decrease the amount of wetland coverage along the margins of the wetland.
Grassland/ agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Public perception of prescribed fire may become increasingly negative due to increased frequency of wildfires. Fire suppression in grassland habitats may result in succession to non-grassland habitats
Running water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Total guild area may decrease if drought conditions become prevelant • Wetland hydrology may be altered due to increasing temperatures and/or drought conditions • Increased siltation and turbidity • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds
Savanna/ shrub/scrub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • South facing slopes may become more arid. • Extended periods of hot/dry weather may increase the

	frequency of wildfires
Standing water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Total guild area may decrease if drought conditions become prevalent • Wetland hydrology may be altered due to increasing temperatures and/or drought conditions • Increased siltation and turbidity • Increased nutrient loads due to potential increase in flood events/ run-off • Increases in herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide pollution due to increase in flood events/ run-off • Lowered levels of surface permeability in certain watersheds
Upland forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Insect pest (e.g. Southern pine beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid) infestations may intensify. Overall forest health may be adversely affected by increased insect populations, since insect development is temperature dependent (Simberloff 2000). • South facing slopes may become more arid. • Extended periods of hot/dry weather may increase the frequency of wildfires
Urban/ suburban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of non-native species • Extended periods of hot/dry weather may increase the frequency of wildfires • Increase in total area of this guild in Kentucky is possible if human populations shift inland, away from turbulent coastal areas. • Small size and lack of connectivity of urban/suburban natural areas may decrease the likelihood that local populations adapt to environmental changes.

Potential Impact of Changing Climates to Species of Greatest

Conservation Need in Kentucky

Kentucky’s Wildlife Action Plan currently lists 301 species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) including the following taxonomic groups: mammals, birds, amphibians,

reptiles, mussels and fishes. An additional 25 crayfish species of greatest conservation need will be added during the 2010 Wildlife Action Plan revision. Some of these species have undergone significant population declines over the past three decades, some require specialized habitats or breeding locations, some are endemics with very small distributions in Kentucky, and some of these species are of concern because non-native invasive species or diseases threaten population persistence. Since global climate change has the potential to exacerbate existing threats to species and habitats of conservation concern, we have compiled the below list of “worst case scenario” possible adverse impacts to SGCN in Kentucky.

Fishes and Lamprey

- If stream temperatures become warmer, nonmigratory fishes may move upstream, seeking cooler areas to feed and reproduce. Habitat for cold and cool water fish in the United States may be reduced by up to 50% (Eaton and Scheller 1996).
- Higher temperatures in streams may lower dissolved oxygen levels and negatively impact fish populations since stress levels for fishes will increase.
- Higher temperatures in headwater streams may result in declining populations or fragmentation of coldwater fish and/or headwater stream specialists (similar to model predictions developed for the Pacific Northwest salmon populations; Battin et al. 2007).
- If catastrophic rain events increase, increasing siltation, nonmigratory fishes may move upstream, seeking more oxygenated waters.
- Increases in siltation may result in lowered recruitment for fishes whose eggs may be smothered by siltation.
- Fish kills may become more common as aquatic habitats become altered.
- Spawning patterns may be disrupted due to increased temperatures, siltation, or alterations to tradition stream flows (e.g. due to increased prevalence of drought followed by flooding).

- Increased frequency of drought may reduce invertebrate productivity thereby reducing food available to fish.
- Increased frequency of drought may result in increased demand for water resources. If water demand increases, microhabitat availability may decrease (less wet, emergent areas). In rivers with reduced discharge, up to 75% of local fish biodiversity may be at risk for extinction by 2070 (Xenopoulos et al. 2005).
- Year class failures may result from water level fluctuations and increased turbidity (e.g. for Crappie, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency 2009).
- Flood control efforts resulting in dam installations could limit the ability for fish to migrate upstream/downstream in response to unfavorable local conditions. Northward flowing corridors (e.g. Kentucky River) may become increasingly important to fish and mussel adaptation.
- Endemic species and species that occur at low densities will be most at risk for extinction (Schwartz et al. 2006).

Mammals

- Bat species have specific roost requirements. Oftentimes these requirements are met by only a small number of caves within the bat's geographic range (Humphrey 1978; Tuttle 1979). Outside and interior cave temperatures are correlated (Smithson 1991). Winter cold snaps often contribute to ideal roosting conditions in caves since this cool air "settles" into passageways within the cave (John MacGregor, pers. comm.). If climate change results in fewer cold snaps, some hibernacula may be less conducive to hibernating bats.
- The push for alternative energy may result in increases in wind turbines and increasing incidents of direct mortality in migrating bats.
- Warmer temperatures may increase stress to bat populations during hibernation, resulting in bats with lowered fat reserves during spring emergence.
- Warmer temperatures may facilitate the spread of mammalian diseases. Longer activity periods and warmer fall temperatures may allow a longer transmission window for White Nose Syndrome in bats.

Amphibians

- The frequency of ephemeral breeding ponds holding water through metamorphosis may decrease with increases in temperatures, or increases in drought, which would result in lower recruitment. In areas where rainfall

averages remain constant, amphibian recruitment may decrease if flood events occur during non-breeding times of the year.

- Amphibians have limited dispersal ability. As a result, moving to more favorable breeding areas may be problematic, and may result in isolated populations and local/regional extirpation of populations. Limited dispersal abilities make amphibians especially vulnerable to rapid habitat changes and localized extirpations (Schneider and Root 1998).
- Aquatic salamander (Eastern Hellbender, *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*, and Mudpuppy, *Necturus maculosus*) populations may decline as a result of temperature increases in streams, increased turbidity, and increased siltation. Often limited by refugia (large boulders/rocks), these species may not be able to migrate upstream to cooler areas.
- Changes in climate may result in range expansions/contractions for amphibians. Populations of salamanders inhabiting high elevations (e.g. Mountain Dusky Salamander, *Desmognathus ochrophaeus* and the Cumberland Plateau Salamander, *Plethodon kentucki*) may move higher in elevation, while some frog populations (e.g. Crawfish Frog, *Rana areolata*) may shrink in distribution as breeding habitats become unsuitable due to early drying.
- Changes in ambient and water temperatures may result in increased frequency of mortality and morbidity events due to *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Chytrid Fungus), Ranavirus, and other amphibian diseases which have been linked to catastrophic amphibian declines worldwide (Skerratt et al. 2007).

Reptiles

- Reptiles favoring wetland/mesic areas may have less available habitat if warmer/drier trends and/or increasing drought trends continue.
- If warmer/drier weather patterns allow non-native species to invade open water and grassland areas, reptiles may have less available or more fragmented habitats.
- Road mortality and habitat fragmentation for reptiles may increase as the human population moves inland to avoid coastal problems exacerbated by climate change (hurricanes, coastal degradation, tropical storms).

Birds

- Since avian ranges are strongly associated with temperature (Root 1988), ranges of breeding birds in North America may continue to shift northward at the current rate of 2.35 km/year, or more rapidly if warming trends become more pronounced (Hitch and Leberg 2007).

- Migrants may no longer arrive on breeding grounds in time for peak insect emergence. Spring arrival dates of migratory breeding birds may differ from historic trends (Wilson 2007).
- If mistimed spring arrival occurs frequently, reproductive success of neotropical migrants will decrease.
- Island breeding habitats (e.g. sand bar islands on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers) may be inundated by flood events during prime breeding dates for species such as the Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*), resulting in lowered recruitment. Flood events may also decrease nest success of other SGCN which often nest close to water (e.g. Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*; Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*; Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*).
- Laying dates for birds may advance in response to long-term increases in spring temperatures. In North America, the long-term laying dates advanced over time for Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*, between 1956 and 2000), Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*, between 1950 and 2000), and Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) between 1962 and 1993) (Torti and Dunn 2005). Similar trends may occur for SGCN.
- If drought conditions increase in frequency/severity, insect availability will be reduced thereby reducing prey availability for birds.
- Short distance migrants may exhibit earlier spring arrival dates, earlier nesting, and some species may soon spend winters in Kentucky instead of migrating short distances to more southern wintering grounds.
- Possible changes in migratory patterns and species ranges due to climate change have the potential to result in increased competition for resources for many SGCN.
- If tropical habitats become drier (more xeric), neotropical migrants may have lower survival during spring migration, arrive on breeding grounds in poor condition, be more vulnerable to predation, and/or be less likely to successfully reproduce.
- Species that nest at high elevations (Golden-Winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*, Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia Canadensis*, and Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*) may no longer find suitable nesting habitat in Kentucky if high elevation areas become warmer and drier. Price (2002) predicts loss of several species which are specialists to high elevation habitats in Tennessee.

- If the Prairie Pothole region is severely impacted, waterfowl populations may shift to new breeding grounds which may result in lowered recruitment and productivity of populations. In a recent model published by Johnson et al. (2010), the Prairie Pothole region appears to be much more sensitive to warming and drying than previously thought. This model predicts major reductions in water volume, shortening of the time water remains in wetlands, and changes to wetland vegetation dynamics in an 800,000-square kilometer region in North and South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, Iowa, and Canada. The most productive habitat for breeding waterfowl within the Prairie pothole region may shift to the wetter eastern and northern fringes, where most wetlands have been drained (Johnson et al. 2005).
- Northern breeding grounds may become drier (Johnson et al. 2005). This could result in lower reproductive success for waterfowl currently breeding in these areas, which over-winter in Kentucky.
- Open water areas in the north may remain longer than usual due to warmer air temperatures. This could result in declines in waterfowl and Bald Eagle populations utilizing southern states during the winter.

Freshwater Mussels

- Changes in stream flow (flood regimes, precipitation patterns) could impact abundance and diversity of freshwater mussels. Large floods have been shown to adversely affect mussel populations (Hastie et al. 2003).
- Mussel populations may decline and recruitment may decline as a result of increased sedimentation and turbidity in aquatic habitats. Streams with healthy groundwater (e.g. karst in the Green River system) will become critical in buffering impacts of climate change.
- Altered stream morphology may adversely affect populations.
- Flood control efforts could limit the ability for range shifts when dams are built.

Crayfish

- Increased human demands for water resources and/or prevalence of drought conditions may lower the water table and decrease suitable habitat for crayfish. Nonburrowing crayfish have been shown to exhibit large drought-induced population changes; specifically, reductions in adult population densities and body size (Taylor 1983).
- Warming temperatures may increase the likelihood of establishment of non-native, invasive aquatic species of crayfish (Rahel and Olden 2008).

Potential Social Implications of Climate Change on Kentucky Biodiversity

Global climate change is predicted to potentially impact water resources in the United States and coastal communities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency projects sea level rise at a rate of 200 – 500 mm between the years 2000 and 2100 (2009). In addition to predictions of rising sea levels, a report by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (2008) states, “based on a range of models, it is likely that future tropical cyclones (typhoons and hurricanes) will become more intense, with larger peak wind speeds and more heavy precipitation associated with increases of tropical storms.” With the predicted increases in severity of hurricanes and tropical storms, coupled with potential shore line losses in Florida and throughout the eastern seaboard, people may begin migrations inland to the Midwestern United States and land-locked states such as Kentucky. If and when these events occur, Kentucky may experience human population growth unprecedented to the Commonwealth. During the last U.S. census survey (U.S. Census Bureau 2000), most Kentucky counties exhibited trends of 4.4% -19.5% population growth between 1990 and 2000. From 2001 through 2005, an estimated 105 acres of forest were lost every day in Kentucky to land-cover conversion (Zourarakis 2009). In contrast to Kentucky’s trends of 4.4% - 19/5% population growth, coastal Florida was characterized by many counties with growth in the 45% - 191% range during this same time period (1990 – 2000). If these trends were to reverse (e.g. migration of people inland), Kentucky could experience a statewide boom in growth and development; consequently, a statewide boom in habitat loss would also occur. In the case that a human population boom were to occur in Kentucky, identifying and conserving key conservation areas and wildlife corridors in Kentucky would become critical. Without

the identification of these connected parcels of habitat, wildlife managers and biologists may not be able to minimize the impact of future increases in development and urbanization on biodiversity within the state. The interaction of social changes and climatic changes that may occur in the future could result in adverse affects to fish, plants, and wildlife that are not currently foreseeable.

A Strategy of Resilience: Kentucky's Climate Change Action Items

The main goal of this document is to outline actions designed to enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change. The following actions seek to restore and maintain habitats and populations of conservation concern, increase the ability of populations to adapt to climate change-driven stressors, and reduce known stressors such as habitat fragmentation, habitat loss, invasive species, and disease threats.

Goal 1: Conserve and restore functioning ecosystems in Kentucky; sustain social-ecological systems and functions. *By conserving and restoring functioning ecosystems, Kentucky will harbor healthier SGCN populations. In turn, these populations will be able to persist despite environmental threats resulting from global climate change. Regional conservation actions which improve the capacity of both ecological and human systems to deal with the impacts of climate change (Game et al. 2010) will be optimally beneficial.*

- *Action 1a.* Fully implement Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan
- *Action 1b.* Utilize Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and other funding sources to protect headwater streams and conserve and restore riparian buffers.
- *Action 1c.* Facilitate and assist with the development of Kentucky's Prescribed Fire Council and with the goals and objectives identified by this group.
- *Action 1d.* Create and implement habitat improvement teams on both private and public lands in Kentucky.
- *Action 1e.* Create early successional habitats on mitigated minelands to benefit grassland guild species such as: Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammadramus*

savannarum), Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammadramus henslowii*), Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene Carolina*), Coal Skink (*Plestiodon anthracinus*), Eastern Hog-Nose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*), American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), etc.

- *Action 1f.* Implement early detection and rapid response programs for non-native invasive species such as Cogongrass, and Asian Carp.
- *Action 1g.* Implement early detection and rapid response programs for wildlife disease threats (e.g. Chytrid Fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*).
- *Action 1h.* Improve the quality of existing habitats to decrease the likelihood of invasive species becoming established.
- *Action 1i.* Implement the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Quail Restoration Plan (Morgan and Robinson, 2008) to benefit suites of grassland bird species.
- *Action 1j.* Implement the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Quail Plan to benefit suites of grassland bird species.
- *Action 1k.* Implement freshwater adaptation approaches (Groves et al. 2010) to enable aquatic ecosystems to provide for both human and wildlife needs in the face of changing climates (e.g. invest in applied research on the impacts of climate change on specific ecosystems and link adaptation strategies to this research).

Goal 2: Create or protect “key” habitats. “Key” habitats often harbor a high proportion of individuals for certain species. For example, a Priority 1 hibernacula for the federally listed Indiana Bat may harbor greater than 25% of Kentucky’s Indiana bat population in the winter months. Protecting these types of habitats is vital to long-term population persistence of multiple SCGN.

- *Action 2a.* Identify and protect refugia and concentrating habitats for species of greatest conservation need, particularly subterranean systems and breeding areas. Identify and protect climatic refugia and associated biodiversity. “Climatic refugia” (Game et al. 2010) are areas that are least likely to undergo significant climate induced changes.
- *Action 2b.* Restore stream and river channels utilizing mitigation (FILO) and other funding.
- *Action 2c.* Continue surveillance efforts for White Nose Syndrome in Kentucky. Implement Kentucky’s White Nose Syndrome response plan when/if this disease is detected in Kentucky.

- *Action 2d.* Create/restore breeding habitats for species for which breeding habitats are limiting. Implement translocation programs for these species if necessary for population persistence.
- *Action 2e.* Facilitate Safe Harbor Agreements on private lands in Kentucky housing key or concentrating habitats.
- *Action 2f.* Restore original air flow patterns in caves with evidence of large bat populations prior to human modification. Restoration practices may include creating air dams to cool caves and/or opening sink holes that have been filled with debris or human garbage.

Goal 3: Implement multi-agency plans for wildlife corridors/connectivity in Kentucky. *Habitat loss and fragmentation are two of the greatest threats to biodiversity in Kentucky and globally. It is critical to identify and conserve wildlife corridors and establish connectivity between key habitats (e.g. breeding habitats and over-wintering habitats) for all taxonomic groups. If conservation and connectivity of is not established on a large scale for each habitat guild in Kentucky, population declines for many SGCN are inevitable. Furthermore, if temperature gradients change over time in Kentucky, corridors will facilitate the movement of fish and wildlife populations to suitable habitats/thermal regimes.*

- *Action 3a.* Encourage the development of land trusts to work towards conserving areas of high importance in local communities.
- *Action 3b.* Implement habitat improvement teams aimed at restoring key habitats/corridors in Kentucky.
- *Action 3c.* Implement riparian habitat protection programs which take advantage of existing riparian corridors. Work with partners to develop and encourage wider adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) along riparian corridors.
- *Action 3d.* Increase aquatic connectivity by removing defunct dams and replacing culverts to facilitate dispersal and adaptation of fish and mussel species. Human safety is also a concern with these defunct dams; 26% of Kentucky's dams are considered "High Hazard Potential" to humans (National Inventory of Dams, 2010). Partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority to install fish ladders on dams where fish passage is restricted.
- *Action 3e.* Form a working group with the Kentucky Department of Transportation (KDOT) to begin incorporating wildlife-friendly underpasses into new transportation projects.
- *Action 3f.* Facilitate more frequent consideration of wildlife in land use planning by partnering with city/county planners to use smart growth tools.

- *Action 3g.* Utilize priority conservation area plans of other government and non-governmental agencies (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, Kentucky Natural Land Trust, etc.) to prioritize land acquisition efforts.
- *Action 3h.* Implement incentive programs for private landowners to encourage conservation easements in key areas in Kentucky.
- *Action 3i.* Collaborate and coordinate with federal, state, and non-governmental organizations to identify and prioritize conservation corridors, and to design and implement regional conservation assessments and associated conservation plans (Game et al. 2010). Work with partners to facilitate regional and national corridor conservation efforts.

Goal 4: Monitor fish, wildlife, and ecosystem responses to climate change. *To effectively conserve Kentucky's fish and wildlife resources amidst changing environmental, climatic, and social conditions, we must monitor the success of our conservation actions and create future goals based on these results.*

- *Action 4a.* Establish and maintain statewide monitoring protocols for all taxonomic groups listed in Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan.
- *Action 4b.* Establish and maintain statewide monitoring protocols for high-risk habitats and ecosystems that may be adversely impacted by global climate change (e.g. high elevation forests).
- *Action 4c.* Design and implement specific projects to monitor fish and wildlife responses to climate change indicators.
- *Action 4e.* Participate in regional and multi-state monitoring efforts to monitor fish, wildlife, and ecosystem responses to climate change.

Goal 5: Evaluate the effectiveness of actions implemented as a result of Kentucky's Climate Change chapter, and adaptively manage populations and habitats based on monitoring results. *Successful management of Kentucky's fish, wildlife, and ecosystem resources relies on careful assessment of implementation activities and adaptive management of future practices based on critical evaluations of success/failure.*

- *Action 5a.* Analyze and assess monitoring data every five years, at a minimum, for each taxonomic group and habitat type.
- *Action 5b.* Analyze results of projects monitoring fish, wildlife, and habitat responses to climate change indicators.
- *Action 5c.* Adaptively manage implementation efforts based on monitoring data.

Goal 6: Continue efforts to educate the public about wildlife conservation and continue efforts to stay optimally informed of current climate change predictions and observed climate change. *Education is a key to long term conservation success. Informing and educating the public and private sectors is paramount to achieving conservation goals.*

- *Action 6a.* Disseminate results of statewide monitoring efforts and research such that this information is available to private entities and the public sector.
- *Action 6b.* Design and implement educational programs facilitating Action items listed in Kentucky's Climate Change Chapter (e.g. educate the public regarding goals of the Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council, educate transportation planners regarding the importance of corridors for wildlife).
- *Action 6c.* Utilize Conservation Education Program Leaders (CEPL) to raise awareness among students and inspire forward progress for action items listed in Kentucky's Climate Change Chapter.
- *Action 6d.* Form partnerships and/or liaison positions to facilitate education of other entities about KDFWR goals (e.g. with the Office of Surface Mining, Division of Forestry, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, etc.).
- *Action 6e.* Within KDFWR, make efforts to obtain and disseminate up-to-date information on current climate predictions and observed climate changes. Utilize partner resources (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) and products to stay abreast of current climate change products (Groves et al. 2010).

Conclusion

In addition to existing threats such as habitat loss and fragmentation, global climate change has the potential to increase stressors to fish and wildlife populations and ecosystems in Kentucky. One objective of the State Wildlife Grant program is to prevent additional species from becoming federally listed under the Endangered Species Act. If appropriately funded, Kentucky's Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change in Kentucky would increase the resilience of our resident fish and wildlife populations in the face of climate change, and will increase the likelihood of survival and recruitment of these populations. At current levels of funding (approximately 1 million dollars per year

in Kentucky), Kentucky will not be able to effectively implement this plan. The six goals comprising this plan and the goals of the Wildlife Action Plan as a whole would require far greater funding than the current level. Land managers and biologists across the nation realize that long-term conservation of biodiversity requires corridors and intact habitat. To effectively identify and conserve high-quality fish and wildlife corridors in Kentucky, we are in desperate need of funding and spending authority for land acquisition, conservation easements, and habitat restoration practices. In the absence of adequate funding for Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan and Kentucky's Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change, Kentucky's natural resources will continue to be degraded and fragmented and fish and wildlife populations will continue to decline.

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Appendix 3.8 Kentucky's terrestrial habitat guild descriptions, prioritized conservation actions, objectives, and performance measures.

Karst, Cave, Rock Shelter, and Cliffline - Terrestrial Guild

The Karst, Cave, Rock Shelter, and Cliffline Terrestrial Habitat Guild was derived primarily based on the unique features that limestone and sandstone geologies have created, although the plant communities supported by these areas are also unique (see Jones 2005 for discussion about plant communities). Karst topography is formed by the dissolution of a layer of bedrock (e.g. limestone, dolostones, gypsum) by groundwater. During the Ordovician (~ 488 – 443 million years ago), Middle Silurian (~ 430 million years ago), and Middle Devonian (~ 380 million years ago) time periods, fluctuating water levels in Kentucky gave way to vast coral reef (limestone) deposits. The karst topography in Kentucky is a direct result of the slow break-down of these ancient coral reef / limestone deposits through groundwater exposure and carbonation (Haney 1985).

Caves, rock shelters and clifflines are unique geologic features formed through a combination of geologic upheavals, cutting by streams and rivers through rock, and collapse of cavernous limestone systems (Jones 2005). Most of Kentucky's cliffline and rock shelter habitats are restricted to the Appalachian Mountain region of eastern Kentucky; however, the habitats are present throughout The Knobs region of Kentucky and in isolated locales elsewhere in the state. Karst ([Appendix 1.71](#)) and cave systems (includes caves, open-throated sinkholes, and "closed" sinkholes) are largely constrained to the following physiological regions: Inner Bluegrass, Outer Bluegrass, Cumberland Plateau, Pottsville Escarpment, Dripping Spring Escarpment, Muldraugh's Hill, and Mississippian Plateau (see [Appendix 1.6](#) for map of physiographic regions of Kentucky).

The Karst, Cave, Rock Shelter, and Cliffline Terrestrial Habitat Guild also includes boulder fields, talus slopes, shale cliffs, abandoned underground quarries and mine portals (openings), and rock cuts associated with mining, quarrying, road construction, and railroads. This Terrestrial Habitat Guild is particularly important because Kentucky Karst systems harbor high levels of subterranean biodiversity. The rich cave faunas of Kentucky Karst stem from the presence of large segments of two major Mississippian limestone plateaus within the Commonwealth (Haney 1985). Of particular importance is Mammoth Cave, located in Edmonson County, Kentucky which is listed as one of the top twenty global hotspots of subterranean biodiversity (Culver and Sket 2000). Karst conservation and cave protection are critically important because karst systems are easily contaminated by rapid surface water run-off into the aquifer.

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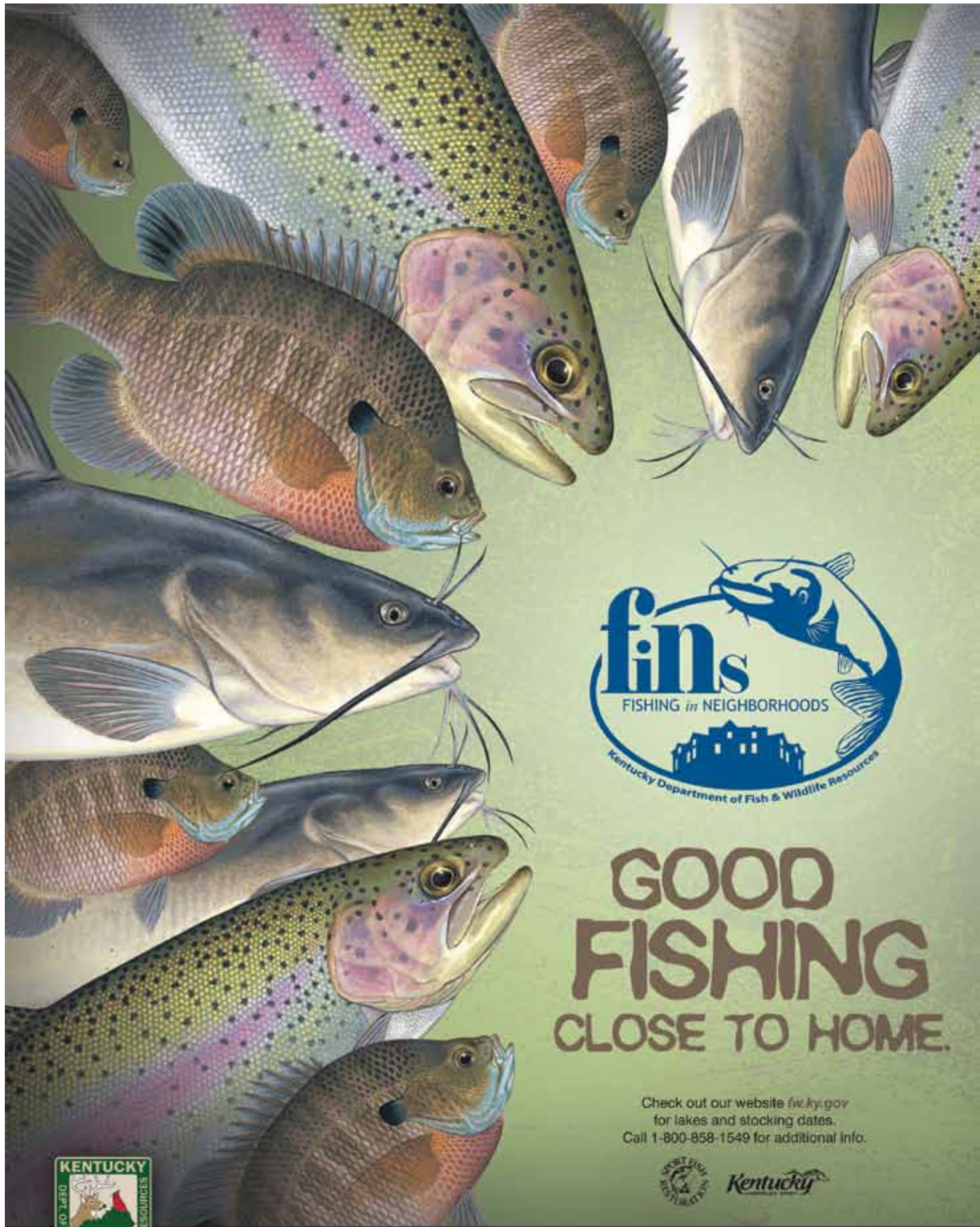
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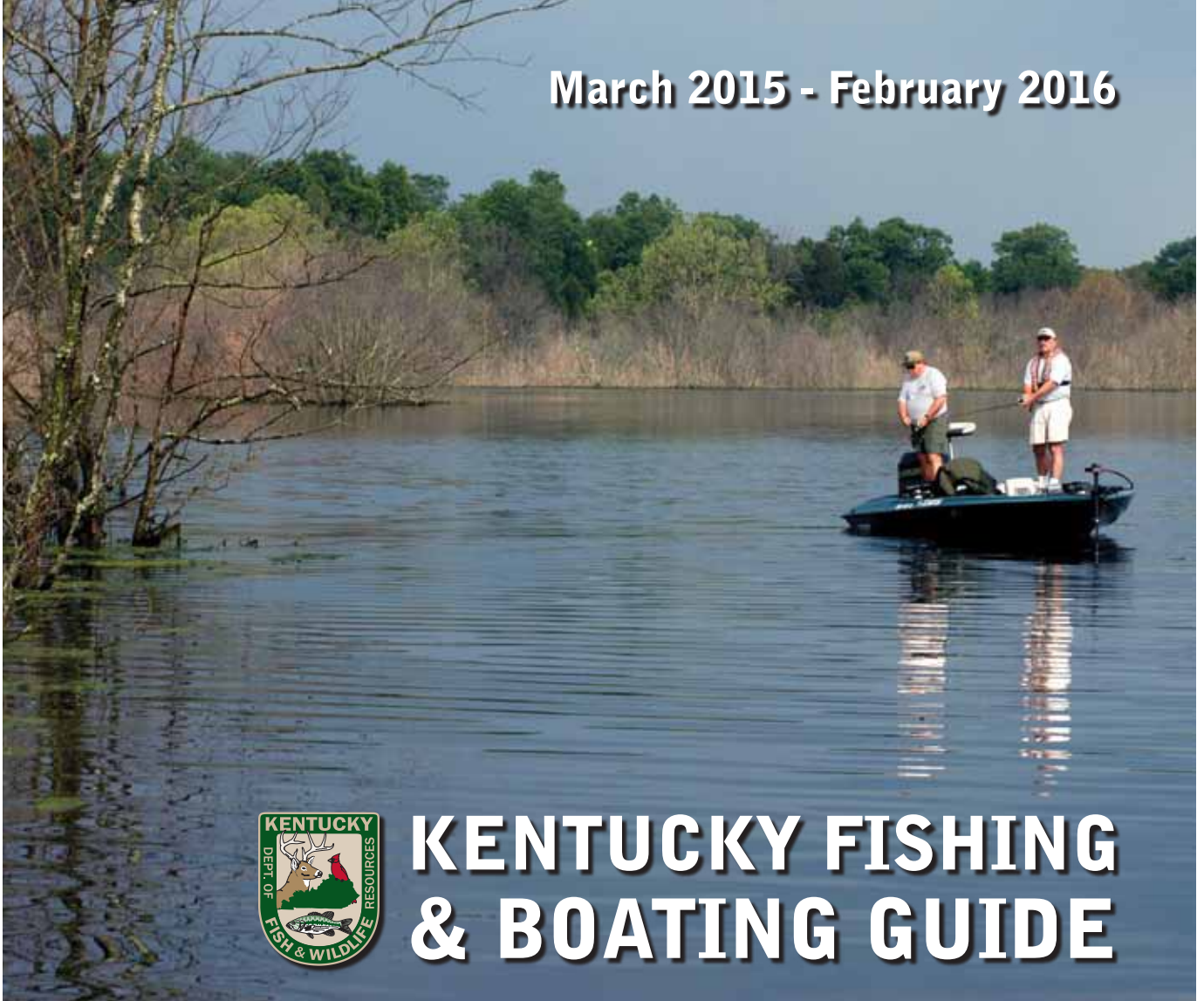
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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT of FISH and WILDLIFE RESOURCES

March 2015 - February 2016



KENTUCKY FISHING & BOATING GUIDE

Dave Baker photo

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a **SUMMARY** of the laws regarding fishing and boating. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources **BEFORE** engaging in the activities referenced.

Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm.

OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also produces regulation guides for spring and fall hunting and trapping, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting. Call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays, look for a copy of these regulation guides where hunting licenses are sold, or log on to fw.ky.gov.

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Commonwealth of Kentucky

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

1st District: Terry Teitloff, Smithland
2nd District: C.F. "Frank" Williams, Madisonville
3rd District: Russell J. Gailor, Louisville
4th District: vacant
5th District: Jimmy Bevins, Owenton
6th District: Stephen Glenn, Frankfort
7th District: Voncel Thacker, Hindman
8th District: Robert L. "Bob" Wells, Morehead
9th District: Christopher Lee Godby, Somerset
Commissioner Emeritus: Dr. James R. Rich, Taylor Mill

Department of FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Commissioner: Gregory K. Johnson
Deputy Commissioner: Charles Bush
Deputy Commissioner: Dr. Karen Waldrop
Wildlife Director: Chris Garland (acting)
Fisheries Director: Ron Brooks
Law Enforcement Director: Hank Patton
Information & Education Director: Tim Slone
Administrative Services Director: Charles Booker
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Public Affairs Director: Brian V. Blank

FISHING & BOATING GUIDE

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Lee McClellan photo

Landowner permission required for hunting and fishing

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to hunt, fish or trap without the oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant or person who has authority to grant permission. Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution. Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately owned property and permission to hunt, fish or trap must be obtained prior to entry. (KRS 150:192)

NEW THIS YEAR

The items highlighted in **bright blue throughout this guide** are a quick overview of the changes to this year's regulations.

FISHING

- **No culling of trout statewide. Culling is holding a trout in a livewell, fish basket or stringer and later replacing it with another fish.**
- **No harvest of alligator gar by sport fishing methods or by bow fishing.**
- **Ohio River: Anglers fishing on a sport fishing license may keep one blue and flathead catfish 35 inches or longer and one channel catfish 28 inches or longer daily. No daily creel limit for catfish under those limits.**
- **Floyd's Fork Creek (Jefferson County): From the U.S. 60 Bridge downstream to the U.S. 150 Bridge, all trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only**

artificial baits may be used during this period.

- **Hatchery Creek (Russell County): Catch and release regulations for all trout caught in newly constructed section as designated by signs. Anglers may only use artificial baits. Anticipated completion in 2015.**
- **Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract (Henry County), Benjy Kinman Lake: No harvest of bass; 15 fish daily creel limit for crappie and sunfish; 4 fish daily creel limit for catfish; trolling motor only. All other ponds on Boone Tract: 1 fish daily creel limit and 15-inch minimum size limit for largemouth bass; 15 fish daily creel limit for crappie and sunfish; 4 fish daily creel limit for catfish; trolling motor only.**
- **The Maysville-Mason County Recreation Park Lake added to the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) program.**

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

WHO WE ARE

Created as the Kentucky Game and Fish Commission on March 12, 1912, the agency known today as the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was established in its present form by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1944. An agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, the department today has about 500 full-time employees.

WHAT WE DO

Through the decades the department's role has expanded to include managing both game and non-game fish and wildlife resources, creating regulations, enforcing wildlife and boating laws, hatching, rearing and stocking fish, assisting landowners with fish and wildlife habitat improvement, educating youth about the importance of fish and wildlife and their habitats, stream restoration, passing on the heritage of archery and shooting sports, buying land for public use, and building boat ramps for angler access to the state's public waterways.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife

Commission, a nine-member citizens board selected by licensed hunters, boaters and anglers, and appointed by the Governor, meets quarterly in Frankfort to make policy decisions. With input from the agency's director, program administrators and staff biologists, the Commission adopts regulations that must meet with the approval of the Kentucky General Assembly.

OUR BUDGET

Revenue sources are: hunting and fishing licenses (51%); boat registration fees (7%); federal program funds (34%); program income (3%); interest income, tax check-off donations, and other miscellaneous receipts (5%).

Budgeted expenditures are: capital projects and land acquisitions (4%), administration (11%), wildlife (28%), fisheries (18%), information and education (12%), and law enforcement (27%).

The department receives no tax dollars from the state's General Fund, and manages fish and wildlife for all citizens.

FISHING REGULATIONS

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Some waterbodies have different size and creel limits, please refer to the "Special Fishing Regulations" section for more details. Fish not included in this list are considered rough fish. There are no size or creel limits for rough fish, unless special regulations apply. For daily creel and fishing license purposes, one fishing day equals one calendar day. Except for trout, anglers may cull fish of a particular species until reaching the daily creel limit. Any additional fish caught in excess of the daily creel limit must be released immediately.

FISH SPECIES		Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Size Limit
BLACK BASS	Largemouth Bass	6*	12*	12"
	Smallmouth Bass	6*	12*	12"
	Kentucky (Spotted) Bass	6*	12*	none
	Coosa Bass	6*	12*	none
	Rock Bass	15	30	none
	Redear Sunfish	20	40	none
	Walleye, Sauger and their Hybrids	6*	12*	15" on walleye and hybrids; none on sauger
	Muskellunge	1	2	30"
	Chain Pickerel	5	10	none
	Northern Pike	none	none	none
	White & Hybrid Striped Bass	15**	30**	none**
	Striped Bass	5	10	15"
	Yellow Bass	30	60	none
	Crappie (Black & White)	30*	60*	none
	Rainbow Trout	Daily limit 8, only 3 may be brown trout***		none
	Brown Trout			12"
	Brook Trout			Catch and release only****
	Lake Sturgeon	Catch and release only		

* Singly or combined; a total of these species ** No more than 5 fish in the daily creel limit may be more than 15 inches long.
 *** Possession limit is double the daily creel limit for these species. **** Except for the Cumberland River downstream of Wolf Creek Dam, see Special Regulations section for details.

STATEWIDE SIZE and CREEL LIMITS (301 KAR 1:060, 1:201; KRS 150.010)

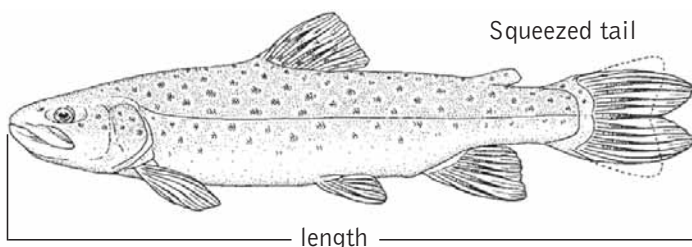
Fishing season is open year-round in Kentucky, except on waterfowl refuges and as otherwise noted in this guide. Statewide size and creel limits apply to all Kentucky waters, public and private,

except some waters have different limits (see "Special Fishing Regulations").

MEASURING FISH (301 KAR 1:201)

Measure all fish from the tip of the lower jaw (closed) to the tip of the tail with fish laid flat on rule with tail lobes

squeezed together. Undersized fish must be returned immediately to the waters from which they were taken in the best possible physical condition.



Q: How is a daily creel limit different than a possession limit?

A: The daily creel limit is the number of a particular sport fish species you may keep in one day's fishing. A possession limit is two times the daily creel limit for all fish species with a daily creel limit and excludes processed fish.

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

(301 KAR 1:080, 1:180, 1:201, 2:222
4:100, 4:200E; KRS 150.010, 150.025)

SPECIAL REGULATION WATERS LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

The public waters listed below have different size and/or creel limits than statewide regulations allow. Statewide size and creel limits apply unless otherwise mentioned below. Special boating regulations are listed in the Boating section of this guide.

Some privately owned waters may have special size and creel limits as posted by signs.

FINs LAKES:

Lakes in the Fishing In Neighborhoods (FINs) program now have uniform regulations for daily creel and size limits:

- **Rainbow Trout:** 5-fish daily limit.
- **Catfish:** 4-fish daily limit.
- **Sunfish:** 15-fish daily limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily limit.

The following FINs lakes are now under these special regulations:

Alexandria Community Park Lake (Campbell County), Anderson County Community Park Lake (Anderson County), Bloomfield Park Lake (Nelson County), Bob Noble Park Lake (McCracken County), Brickyard Pond (Knox County), Camp Ernst Lake (Boone County), Carlson and Dickerson Lakes (Ft. Knox, Meade County), Cherokee Park Lake (Jefferson County), Easy Walker Park Pond (Montgomery County), Fisherman's Park Lakes (Jefferson County), Jacobson Park Lake (Fayette County), James D. Beville Park Lake (Grayson County), Kingdom Come State Park Lake (Harlan County), Lake Mingo (Jessamine County), Lake Pollywog (Grant County), Lower Sportman's Lake (Franklin County), Lusby Lake (Scott County), Madisonville City Park Lakes (Hopkins County), Martin County Lake (Martin County), **Maysville-Mason County Recreation Park Lake (Mason County)**, Middleton Mills Long Pond and Shelterhouse Ponds (Kenton County), Mike Miller Park Lake (Marshall County), Miles Park Lakes (Jefferson County), Millen-

nium Park Pond (Boyle County), Panther Creek Park Lake, (Daviness County), Prisoner's Lake (Kenton County), Scott County Park Lake (Scott County), Southgate Lake (Campbell County), Three Springs Lake (Warren County), Tom Wallace Park Lake (Jefferson County), Upper Sportsman's Lake (Franklin County), Watterson Park Lake (Jefferson County), Waverly Park Lake (Jefferson County), Waymond Morris Park Lake (Daviness County), Whitehall Park Lake (Madison County), Yellow Creek Park Lake (Daviness County)

A.J. JOLLY LAKE Campbell County

No harvest of flathead catfish.

BARK CAMP CREEK Whitley County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

BARKLEY, KENTUCKY LAKES (and their connecting canal)

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 20 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

BARKLEY TAILWATER – See Cumberland River

BARREN RIVER LAKE

The boundaries of Barren River Lake are from the dam upstream to the Hwy. 100 bridge, Long Creek to the Hwy. 100 bridge, Beaver Creek to the Hwy. 1297 bridge, Skaggs Creek to the Matthews Mill Road bridge and Peter Creek to the Peter Creek Road bridge.

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit except 1 fish in the daily creel limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

BEAVER CREEK Wayne County

All trout caught from October 1

through March 31 in the section of Beaver Creek from the Hwy. 90 bridge upstream to the Hwy. 200 bridge must be immediately released. Only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

BEAVER LAKE Anderson County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

BENJY KINMAN LAKE – see Kentucky River WMA Boone Tract

BERT COMBS LAKE Clay County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

BESHEAR LAKE Caldwell County

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

NEED A PLACE TO FISH?

Find new fishing information on Kentucky waterbodies by visiting fw.ky.gov. Click on the "Fish" tab, then on "Where to Fish." Anglers may search lakes, rivers and creeks for boat ramps and access points, what species are available and maps of how to get there plus other useful information.

Also under the "Where to Fish" tab is the 2015 Fishing Forecast. This report details the anticipated fishing success for each species in major waterbodies based on population samples conducted by KDFWR fisheries biologists.

Although the VPA program is now in a reduced capacity, many sites remain open to public use. Check the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov.

BIG BONE CREEK **Boone County**

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

BOLTZ LAKE **Grant County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

BRIGGS LAKE **Logan County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

BUCKHORN LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.

BULLOCK PEN LAKE **Grant and Boone counties**

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

CANE CREEK **Laurel County**

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

CARNICO LAKE **Nicholas County**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

CARPENTER LAKE **Daviess County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

CARR CREEK LAKE

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

CARTER CAVES STATE PARK LAKE **(also called Smoky Valley Lake)**

Fishing during daylight hours only.
Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12- to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth

Did you know?

Camping is prohibited on KDFWR owned or managed lakes.

bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released; 6 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 15 inches.

CASEY CREEK **Trigg County**

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

CAVE RUN LAKE

Gigging and snagging prohibited in the main lake and all tributaries up to the first riffle. The location of the first riffle may change depending on water levels.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 13 to 16-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 13 and 16 inches in length must be released immediately.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.

CEDAR CREEK LAKE **Lincoln County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

CHIMNEY TOP CREEK **Wolfe County**

A 16-inch minimum size limit and 1 fish daily creel limit for brown trout and only artificial baits may be used.

CLEAR CREEK **Bell County**

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 shall be immediately released and only artificial baits may be used during this period.

CORINTH LAKE **Grant County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

(301 KAR 1:035)

Special fishing regulations are in effect on Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. For complete fishing information on this area contact: Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, KY 40965, phone (606) 248-2817.

CUMBERLAND RIVER from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee state line:

All licensed anglers must possess a trout permit on this portion of Cumberland River. This includes Hatchery Creek and all tributaries up to the first riffle.

Anglers shall not cull trout by replacing a live trout in their possession with another trout. Once an angler holds a trout in their possession on this section of the Cumberland River, it counts toward the daily trout creel limit. Anglers may not attract or chum trout with bait, corn or other attractants designed to draw numbers of trout to a specific area. This includes all tributaries up to the first riffle and in Hatchery Creek.

- **Brown Trout:** 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit, also applies to all tributary streams.
- **Rainbow Trout:** 15 to 20-inch protective slot limit. All trout caught between 15 and 20 inches in length must be immediately released. Five fish daily limit, only one rainbow

Q: Is fishing allowed around a dock or a marina?

A: It depends. Public marinas on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lakes have contractual agreements that address lease space on public waters. The Corps presently allows the marina owners or operators to post signs that prohibit fishing within 150 feet of their floating structures. These agreements do not prohibit a person from fishing in their boat rental slip. This policy does not apply to privately owned boat docks on Corps lakes.

trout may be longer than 20 inches.

Also applies to all tributary streams.

- **Brook Trout:** 1 fish daily creel limit with a 15-inch minimum size limit. Also applies to all tributary streams.

CUMBERLAND RIVER from Lake Barkley Dam downstream to confluence with Ohio River

Gigging and snagging only permitted downstream of U.S. 62 bridge with a daily creel limit of 8 fish. Harvesting of sportfish by snagging is prohibited. All snagged or gilled rough fish including paddlefish, with the exception of shad, herring or Asian carp, shall be taken into possession and not be culled. Snagged or gilled fish must not be disposed of on the bank. Disposing of fish on the bank is littering and subject to a fine. See the gigging and snagging section on page 11 of this guide for additional information. Snagged paddlefish or their roe cannot be sold.

- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

DALE HOLLOW LAKE

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Black Bass creel:** includes largemouth, smallmouth and Kentucky (spotted) bass – 5 fish daily creel limit on black bass singly or combined, only two of which may be smallmouth bass.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 16 to 21-inch protective slot limit. One fish over 21 inches and one fish under 16 inches may be kept daily.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit, 10 fish daily creel limit.
- **Rainbow and Brown Trout:** 7-fish aggregate daily creel limit.
- **Walleye:** 16-inch minimum size limit, 5 fish daily creel limit.

DEWEY LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 25 inches.

DIX RIVER from Herrington Lake Dam downstream for two miles

Fishing with artificial lures or flies only.

DOE RUN LAKE Kenton County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** Four fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

DOG FORK Wolfe County

Only artificial baits with a single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

EAST FORK INDIAN CREEK Menifee County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 shall be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

ELKHORN CREEK in Franklin County from confluence of North and South forks downstream to Kentucky River:

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12 to 16-inch protective slot limit. Largemouth and smallmouth bass caught between 12 and 16 inches in length must be immediately released. Daily limit of 6 may include no more than 2 fish longer than 16 inches.
- For regulatory purposes, the boundary of Elkhorn Creek is a permanent marker just below the first riffle upstream from its confluence with the Kentucky River.

ELK SPRING CREEK Wayne County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

ELMER DAVIS LAKE Owen County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

FAGAN BRANCH LAKE (also called Lebanon City Lake) Marion County

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth and smallmouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be released immediately.

FISHTRAP LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish in the daily creel limit may be longer than 25 inches.

HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

Kentucky's largest salamander: Eastern Hellbender

Can grow up to 24" long • Completely aquatic • Not aggressive or poisonous • Long lived (up to 30 yrs.)

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is very interested in all locality records for the eastern hellbender. If you see this giant salamander, please e-mail John MacGregor (john.macgregor@ky.gov) or Danna Baxley (danna.baxley@ky.gov) with locality information and a photograph, if possible.



FLOYD'S FORK**Jefferson County**

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** From U.S. 60 Bridge downstream to U.S. 150 Bridge, 15-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit.
- **Rainbow Trout:** From U.S. 60 bridge downstream to U.S. 150 bridge, all trout caught from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31 must be immediately released.

GENERAL BUTLER STATE PARK LAKE**Carroll County**

- Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
 - **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

GOLDEN POND (Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area)

- **Channel Catfish:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 5 fish daily creel limit.

GRAYSON LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

GREENBO LAKE**Greenup County**

- Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Bluegill and other Sunfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit.
 - Areas marked by signage and buoys near the Jesse Stuart Lodge are periodically closed to fishing.

GREEN RIVER LAKE

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.

GUIST CREEK LAKE**Shelby County**

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

HATCHERY CREEK (lower section)**Russell County**

- **Brook, Rainbow and Brown Trout:** Catch and release only for all trout in newly constructed lower section. Only artificial baits may be used. Anticipated completion in 2015. Upper section of Hatchery Creek as designated by signs open under Cumberland River trout regulations.

KENTUCKY, BARKLEY LAKES (and their connecting canal)

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 20 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

KENTUCKY LAKE TAILWATER – see Tennessee River**KENTUCKY RIVER WMA BOONE TRACT, Henry County****Benjy Kinman Lake:**

- **Largemouth Bass:** No harvest.
 - **Crappie and Sunfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit.
 - **Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.
 - **Trolling motor only.**
- All other ponds:**
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.
 - **Crappie and Sunfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit.
 - **Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.
 - **Trolling motor only.**
 - **Please observe buoy restrictions and signage.**

KINCAID LAKE**Pendleton County**

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

(301 KAR 1:031)

Special fishing regulations are in effect for ponds and small lakes within Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area. For complete fishing information on this area, anglers should contact: Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Golden Pond, KY 42231, phone (270) 924-2000.

LAKE BLYTHE**Christian County**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.

LAKE CHUMLEY**Lincoln County**

Fishing during daylight hours only.

LAKE CUMBERLAND

The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are defined as Cumberland Falls

on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit.
- **Lake Sturgeon:** Catch and release only.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.
- **Striped Bass:** 22-inch minimum size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit.

LAKE JERICHO**Henry County**

- Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE MALONE

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE SHELBY**Shelby County**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

LAUREL RIVER LAKE

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.

LEARY LAKE**Grant County**

- Fishing during daylight hours only.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.
 - **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.

LEBANON CITY LAKE – see Fagan Branch Lake**LEFT FORK, BEAVER CREEK****Floyd County**

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

LINCOLN HOMESTEAD STATE PARK LAKE Washington County

Fishing during daylight hours only. Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

MARION COUNTY LAKE

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

McNEELY LAKE Jefferson County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

MIDDLE FORK, RED RIVER Powell County

Within the Natural Bridge State Park, all trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

MILL CREEK LAKE Powell and Wolfe counties

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

NEW HAVEN OPTIMIST LAKE Nelson County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

NOLIN RIVER LAKE

Lake upper boundary extended to the Wheelers Mill Road bridge in the Nolin River arm and to the Hwy. 728 bridge in the Bacon Creek arm (formerly defined as first riffle upstream in Bacon Creek and Nolin River).

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch size limit, except 1 fish in the daily limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

OHIO RIVER – see also, “Bordering

Waters” page 15

- **Walleye, Sauger and their Hybrids:** No minimum size limit, 10 fish daily creel limit, singly or combined.
- **White Bass, Striped Bass and their Hybrids:** 30 fish daily creel limit, only 4 fish may be 15 inches or longer.
- **Blue, Channel and Flathead Catfish:** Anglers may keep one blue or flathead catfish 35 inches or longer and one channel catfish 28 inches or longer daily. No daily creel limit on catfish under those limits.

OTTER CREEK Meade County

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12- to 16-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth and smallmouth bass caught between 12 and 16 inches in length must be immediately released; 6 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 16 inches.

All trout caught in Fort Knox Military Reservation and in Otter Creek Park from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period. Fort Knox Military Reservation requires the purchase of a \$10 permit to fish and is closed to fishing on Tuesdays. Anglers must check-in with the Fort Knox Hunt Control Office at (502) 624-2712 before each day’s fishing. There is a one-mile section of Otter Creek as posted by signs in Fort Knox Military Reservation where trout fishing is open to statewide regulations.

PAINT CREEK Johnson County

16-inch minimum size limit and 1 fish daily creel limit on trout from the KY 40 bridge downstream to the first U.S. 460 bridge crossing and only artificial baits shall be used.

PAINTSVILLE LAKE

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be released immediately.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.

PARCHED CORN CREEK Wolfe County

Only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

PEABODY WMA LAKES

In addition to a fishing license, a \$15.00 user permit is required of persons age 16 and over while on Peabody WMA. Permits can be purchased where fishing licenses are sold. Fishing open Mar. 16 - Oct. 14 on Goose, Island and South Lake, all other lakes open year-round.

PENNYRILE LAKE Christian County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.

PIKEVILLE CITY LAKE Pike County

- **Largemouth Bass:** All largemouth bass caught must be immediately released.

POOR FORK and its tributaries Letcher County

Downstream to the first crossing of Hwy. 932, only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

REBA LAKE Madison County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

REFORMATORY LAKE Oldham County

- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

ROCK CREEK McCreary County

From Bell Farm Bridge upstream to Tennessee state line, all trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

ROUGH RIVER LAKE

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit except 1 fish in the daily creel limit or 2 in the

possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE Warren County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

SHILLALAH CREEK Bell County

Outside the Cumberland Gap National Park as posted, only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

SPORTSMAN'S LAKES Franklin County

Fishing during daylight hours only.

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited. See FINs lakes at the beginning of the special regulations section for daily creel and minimum size limits.

SPURLINGTON LAKE Taylor County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

SWIFT CAMP CREEK Clifty Wilderness, Wolfe County

All trout caught from October 1 through May 31 shall be released immediately

and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

SYMPSON LAKE Nelson County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

TAYLORSVILLE LAKE

Lake upper boundary extended to Dry Dock Road on Salt River (formerly defined as first riffle upstream in Salt River).

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 15-fish daily creel limit. Only 1 fish of the daily creel limit may be longer than 25 inches.

TENNESSEE RIVER from Kentucky Lake Dam downstream to confluence with Ohio River

The area from Kentucky Dam to the new U.S. 62 bridge will be open to snagging 24 hours per day from January 1 through May 31. From June 1 through December 31, the area is open to snagging from sunset to sunrise. The area of the Tennessee River from the new U.S. 62 bridge to the I-24 bridge is closed to snagging year round. The area from the I-24 bridge to the confluence with the Ohio River is open to snagging year

round. There is now a daily creel limit of 8 fish in aggregate and shall not exceed the daily creel limit for any sport fish in which the creel limit is under 8 fish per day. Snagging must cease if any sport fish daily creel limit is attained. All fish snagged including paddlefish, except shad, herring or Asian carp, must be taken into possession and not culled. Snagged fish must not be disposed on the bank. This action is littering and subject to a fine. Snagged paddlefish or their roe cannot be sold. Gigging is prohibited in the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam. See the Gigging and Snagging section on page 11 for more information.

- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

TRAMMEL CREEK Allen County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

- **Brown Trout:** 16-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit.

WOOD CREEK LAKE Laurel County

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

YATESVILLE LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

OTHER SPECIES

BULLFROGS

(301 KAR 1:082)

The taking season for bullfrogs opens at noon on the third Friday in May ([May 15, 2015](#)) and runs through Oct. 31. If a gun or bow and arrow are used, a hunting license is required. If frogs are taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required. If frogs are taken by gig or by hand, then either hunting or fishing license is valid. The daily noon-to-noon creel limit for bullfrogs is 15. The possession limit is 30.

TURTLES

(301 KAR 1:058)

Anglers may take snapping turtles (except alligator snapping turtles) and softshell turtles year round by the same methods legal for taking rough fish species. Commercial fishing gear may not be used to take turtles. A hunting license is required when taking turtles by gun or by bow and arrow. Otherwise a fishing license is required. Turtles can not be sold.

Turtle traps may be one of two kinds: either a barrel or drum with a tilting trigger board or a floating log raft with an enclosed twine or wire mesh bag. Turtle traps must be inspected daily. All turtles must be removed daily except one decoy turtle may remain. Any other

species (except soft shelled and snapping turtles) caught in a turtle trap must be released unharmed.

GRASS CARP HARVEST PROHIBITED

(301 KAR 1:201)

Harvesting grass carp is prohibited in any lake owned or managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Anglers who catch a grass carp from one of these lakes must immediately return the fish to the water where it was caught. Grass carp are used to control aquatic vegetation. Signs are posted at applicable lakes.

LIVE BAIT FOR PERSONAL USE (301 KAR 1:130, 1:122)

No live fish, live bait fish or live bait organisms that are not native or established in Kentucky waters shall be bought, sold, possessed, imported, or in any way used or released into waters of this Commonwealth. Blueback herring are not native to Kentucky and may not be imported or possessed in this state.

Holders of sport fishing licenses may take live bait from public waters and may possess up to 500 live bait fishes which include shad (except on lakes where possession or use of shad is prohibited) and herring, 500 crayfish, 25 spring lizards or dusky salamanders, 5 frogs (other than bullfrogs), 5 tadpoles, 100 native lampreys, 500 other aquatic invertebrate organisms other than mussels, and any number of unshelled Asiatic clams. Live wild caught Asian carp, herring and shad may only be used in

the waters from which they were collected. A commercial license is required to take live bait from public waters open to commercial fishing for the purpose of selling.

Regardless of size or how obtained, it is illegal to use any sport fish for bait (except redear sunfish less than 6 inches long). (Sport fish species listed on page 3). Live bait fishes are defined as rough fish except blackside dace, palezone shiner, Cumberland darter, relict darter, tuxedo darter and redear sunfish less than 6 inches long. Also, see page 21 for a description of these protected fish species. Bluegills are not sport fish and may be taken for bait as described above.

Live bait may be taken with the following gear:

- **Dip Nets:** Maximum size of 3 feet in diameter is legal in the Ohio, Tennessee and Mississippi rivers, Cumberland

River below Barkley Dam, Kentucky River below Lock No. 14, and all lakes having 1,000 or more surface acres.

- **Minnow Traps:** Maximum legal size statewide: 3 feet long, 18 inches in diameter, 1-inch openings for catching.
- **Seines:** Maximum legal size statewide: 10 feet long, 4 feet deep, ¼-inch mesh. Maximum legal size in the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and Kentucky and Barkley lakes: 30 feet long, 6 feet deep and ¼-inch bar mesh.
- **Sport Cast Nets:** Maximum sport cast net size is 20 feet in diameter with maximum 1-inch bar mesh statewide except in the following waters. Sport cast nets prohibited in: 1) lakes having fewer than 500 surface acres, 2) Hatchery Creek in Russell County. All sport fish incidentally taken while capturing live bait with seines, dip nets or cast nets must be released immediately unharmed into the water.

KNOW YOUR TURTLES!



COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE
Legal to take



ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE
Illegal to take



FISHING METHODS

No firearms

Fish may not be taken with use of a firearm.

SPORT FISHING TROT LINES, JUGGING and SET LINES (LIMB LINES)

(301 KAR 1:410; KRS 150.010)

A sport fishing trotline is a line with no more than 50 single or multi-barbed baited hooks that must be at least

18 inches apart. A sport fishing trotline must be set at least three feet below the water's surface. Jugging is fishing with a single baited line attached to any floating object. A jug line may have no more than one single or multi-barbed hook. A set line is a line with one single or multi-barbed hook. It may be attached to a tree limb, tree trunk, bank pole or other stationary object on the bank of a stream or impoundment.

One person may use no more than two sport fishing trotlines or 50 jug lines or 25 set lines at any one time. Each boat

may not use more than 50 jug lines, but each occupant may use two sportfishing trotlines or 25 set lines. Each sport fishing trotline, jug line or set line must

Q: What is legal equipment for sport fish?

A: Anglers may legally take fish by hook and line in hand, rod in hand, jugging, setline or sport fishing trotline.

be: 1) **permanently labeled** with the name and address of the user; 2) baited, checked and all fish removed at least once every 24 hours; 3) **removed** from water, bank or tree when fishing ceases.

Prohibited Areas: Sport fishing trotlines, jug lines or set lines may not be used within 200 yards below any dam. Sport fishing trotlines, jug lines or set lines are not allowed in Department owned/managed lakes having less than 500 surface acres, except those located on Ballard and Boatwright WMAs. No sport fishing trotlines are allowed within 700 yards below Kentucky Dam, the area between Barkley Dam and U.S. 62 bridge, or below the following Ohio River dams from the face of the dam to the end of the outer lock wall: Smithland, Newburgh, Cannelton, Markland, Meldahl and Greenup; McAlpine downstream to the K&I railroad bridge; J.T. Meyers (Uniontown) to the end of the outer lock wall and that portion of the split channel around the southern part of Wabash Island from the fixed weir dam to the first dike.

GIGGING AND SNAGGING FISH (301 KAR 1:410, 1:082; KRS 150.010)

Gigging means spearing or impaling fish on any pronged or barbed instrument attached to the end of any rigid object. Snagging means taking fish or other aquatic animals by a rapid drawing motion (rather than enticement by bait) using a hand-held pole and attached line with one single treble hook. Except, in Green River, Rolling Fork River and their tributaries, up to five single or five treble hooks may be used for snagging. A rod legal for snagging must be equipped with line, guides and a reel. The rod length restriction is now removed.

The statewide season for gigging and/or snagging rough fish is from February 1 through May 10. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake or in a boat from November 1 through January 31. A person may gig or snag fish from the bank of a stream during the day or night. Gigging and snagging is not legal from a platform, except that gigging is legal from a boat on lakes 500 surface acres or larger and only during daylight hours.

There is a statewide limit of 2 paddlefish for either gigging or snagging.

All giggered or snagged paddlefish must be taken into possession and cannot be culled or released. Anglers must cease gigging or snagging once they attain the 2 paddlefish daily creel limit. It is illegal to sell paddlefish or their roe taken by sportfish snagging methods. No daily limits on any other rough fish. Regardless of condition, all sport fish taken by gigging and snagging must be immediately returned to the water.

Persons may gig rough fish through the ice any time the surface is frozen thick enough to stand upon. The gigger must gig while supported by the ice.

Gigging and snagging are prohibited in the following waters or areas:

- Cave Run Lake including all tributaries up to the first riffle (The location of the first riffle may change depending on water level).
- Cumberland River, below Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee line including all of Hatchery Creek and all tributaries for ½ mile upstream of their confluence with the Cumberland River.
- Within 200 yards of a dam, except below Kentucky Dam.
- Cumberland River, below Barkley Dam downstream to the U.S. 62 bridge.
- Tennessee River, below Kentucky Dam from the new U.S. 62 bridge to I-24 bridge.
- Middle Fork of Kentucky River from Buckhorn Lake downstream to the Breathitt County line.
- Rough River, below Rough River Dam to KY 54 bridge
- In the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam, gigging prohibited year-round.

For special regulations concerning gigging and snagging in the Cumberland River below Barkley Dam and in the Tennessee River below Kentucky Lake refer to Special Regulations on pages 6 and 9 of this guide.

TICKLING AND NOODLING (301 KAR 1:410; KRS 150.010)

The tickling and noodling (hand grabbing) season for rough fish is June 1 through August 31, during daylight hours only. Tickling and noodling means taking fish directly by hand, or with the aid of a handled hook. These methods are permitted in all waters. The

Q: May you clean your fish while on the water?

A: Anglers shall not remove any part of the head or tail of any fish for which there is a size or creel limit until finished fishing and off the water.

daily creel limit is 15 rough fish, no more than 5 of which can be catfish.

BOW FISHING (301 KAR 1:410)

Rough fish may be taken year-round by bow and arrow with line attached. Sport fish may not be taken with a bow and arrow. Bow anglers may use a long bow, recurve bow, crossbow or compound bow. Arrows must have a barbed or retractable style point that has a line attached for retrieval. Catfish have a daily creel limit of 5 (in aggregate) and paddlefish have a daily creel limit of 2. There is no limit on other rough fish. Bow fisherman may fish within 200 yards of a dam, except by boat in boat restricted areas. Bow fishing is prohibited on the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee line, including Hatchery Creek and all tributaries for ½ mile upstream of their confluence with the Cumberland River.

Persons using a bow and arrow for fishing must have the appropriate fishing license and may take rough fish from bank or boat. Bow anglers cannot sell paddlefish or their roe taken by bow and arrow. Paddlefish and catfish taken by bow and arrow must be taken into immediate possession and cannot be culled. Fish taken by bow must not be discarded on the bank. Bank disposal is littering and subject to a fine.

SPEAR FISHING (301 KAR 1:410)

Underwater spearing of rough fish with hand-held or mechanically propelled spear is permitted year-round, but only in lakes having 1,000 surface acres or more. All participants in this sport must be submerged while spear fishing. Only rough fish may be taken and the appropriate fishing license is required. The daily limit is 15 fish of which only 5 may be catfish.

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$20	\$50
	Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$36	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7	\$10
	3-Year Fishing (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$55	Not available
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$30
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40
	Trout Permit	\$10	
	Annual Hunting	\$20	\$140
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$15
	7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$55
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$6	\$10
	Shooting Area License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Annual Trapping	\$20	\$130
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10	Not available
Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	\$5	Not available	
COMBOS	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$30	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing* (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, 2 youth deer permits and 2 youth turkey permits.)	\$30	Not available
DEER	Statewide Deer Permit (two deer)	\$35	\$120
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10	\$15
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Migratory Bird–Waterfowl Permit	\$15	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$15	
	Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$25	
ELK	Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Youth WMA Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Quota Bull Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$100	\$550
	Quota Cow Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$60	\$400
	Youth Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$40
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit (Nonresident available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$400
BEAR	Bear Permit	\$30	Not available
	Bear Chase Permit	\$30	Not available
	Youth Bear Chase Permit	\$10	Not available
AREAS	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15	
	Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit	\$25, or \$35 with Backcountry Camping	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3, annual: \$30, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7, annual: \$70	
OTHER	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Habitat Improvement and Public Access Donation (voluntary; available at fw.ky.gov only)	Any amount	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk drawing application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License. Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk drawing application).

HOW TO BUY LICENSES AND PERMITS

GETTING A LICENSE ONLINE

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a **Joint Husband/Wife Fishing License**, can be purchased through the secured Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website. Replacement licenses can be printed free at fw.ky.gov.

GETTING A LICENSE IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased throughout the Commonwealth. Most Walmart, Kmart, county court clerk offices and outdoor sporting goods stores sell licenses. License vendor locations are listed at fw.ky.gov.

GETTING A LICENSE BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased by phone 24 hours a day. It is the caller's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed before calling. Operators should NOT be relied upon to explain licensing requirements. If you are unsure what license or permit

By Internet:

Visit fw.ky.gov

Persons purchasing online:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard or Discover;
2. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
3. Must carry proof of their license/permit in addition to a picture ID while fishing; and
4. Will not receive a paper license/permit in the mail.

By phone:

Call toll-free 1-877-598-2401

Persons purchasing by phone:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard, Discover or e-check;
2. Will be charged a small fee;
3. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
4. Will be issued a paper license/permit by mail (except short-term licenses);
5. Will be issued an authorization number which serves as a license/permit until paper license/permit is issued; and
6. Must have the authorization number in addition to a picture ID while fishing, if they have not yet received their paper license/permit in the mail.

you need, refer to previous portions of this guide, or contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549.

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a disabled license, elk lottery application and all youth licenses and permits, can be purchased over the phone for a small fee.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

License expiration

Annual license/permit authorization numbers are valid from the date of purchase through the last day in February. New licenses are required annually March 1. A temporary fishing license is valid for the period shown on the license. KRS 150.175
It is illegal to sell fish caught on a sport fishing license.

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE?

(KRS 150.010, 150.170)

All persons must fill out and carry the proper license and permit to fish any Kentucky waters **except the following** (for permit requirements see "Trout Permit" on this page):

- The resident owner of farmlands, his spouse and dependent children may fish on their land without a license. Tenants, their spouses and dependent children may fish without a license on farmlands where they live and work.
- Resident servicemen on furlough for more than three days may fish state-

wide without a license, but must carry proper identification and papers showing furlough status.

- Residents and nonresidents ages 15 and younger.
- Persons fishing on the first Saturday and Sunday in June (**June 6-7, 2015**) during Free Fishing Days are not required to have a license or permit.
- Persons fishing within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park.

A resident is anyone who has established permanent and legal residence in Kentucky and resided here at least 30 days immediately prior to applying for a license. Full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least a six-month term and service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky are also classified as residents. All others are considered non-residents for licensing purposes.

TROUT PERMIT

(301 KAR 1:201)

Unless license exempt, anglers who intend to keep trout must have a trout permit (\$10). A trout permit is included

with the resident senior/disabled combination license and resident sportsman's license. All licensed anglers fishing the portion of the Cumberland River from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee state line, its tributaries up to the first riffle and all of Hatchery Creek are required to possess a trout permit. (See the Trout section in this guide for details and for a complete list of waters where trout are present.)

RESIDENT SPORTSMAN'S LICENSE (SAVE \$55!)

Available to Kentucky residents only, the Sportsman's License includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, statewide deer permit, state waterfowl permit (which also covers dove and other migratory bird hunting) and trout permit. Peabody and LBL permits, trapping license, an elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit (if drawn), out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit and bonus deer permits must be purchased separately. A federal duck stamp (available at post offices) is required for waterfowl hunting.

PAY LAKES (KRS 150.660)

A person fishing in a pay lake licensed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources needs either a Kentucky fishing license or a free permit issued by the operator. If the lake is not licensed by Kentucky Fish and

Wildlife, anglers need a valid Kentucky fishing license.

FREE FISHING DAYS (301 KAR 1:210)

Every year Kentucky offers free fishing days the first weekend in June (**June 6-7, 2015**). On free fishing days

no license (including the Kentucky trout permit) is required of residents or non-residents to fish any Kentucky waters. All other fishing regulations remain in effect. Free fishing days are offered to promote fishing and National Fishing Week.

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABILITY LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing license (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management declared totally and permanently disabled by a recog-

nized authority.

- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to print the form showing your name, address, Social Security number and date of birth. It must state that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (address bottom left).
- **Veteran's Administration:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife
- If your disability is through other state or federal agencies call 1-800-858-1549.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail.

The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. Senior and Disability Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for a replacement.

Mail or fax

To send disability paperwork to the department:

By mail:
KDFWR Disability License
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

By FAX: (502) 564-9845

Q: For how long is a disability authorization card valid?

A: A disability authorization card is valid for three years (check the expiration date on your card). Every three years, you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions to the left) and get a new card. Those who already have a disability authorization card through the Veteran's Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

LOST LICENSES AND PERMITS

Persons who need a replacement license or permit have three options:

1. Print a replacement online at fw.ky.gov. Click on "Licenses," then on "Reprint Your License."
2. Purchase the same type of license or permit from any license vendor, ask them for a license refund form (or print one at fw.ky.gov), fill it out and send it to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's

Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. You will receive a refund minus a \$5 handling fee.

3. Send \$5, your name, address, date of birth and Social Security number, and which license(s) or permits you lost to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. The department will replace the license/permit once verification of original purchase occurs. Replacement may take up to 3 weeks.

Carry proof

Holders of Disabled Combination Licenses must carry both the license and authorization card while fishing. Once a person who qualifies for this license reaches age 65, he or she is considered a senior for licensing purposes, and no longer needs to follow the process of obtaining a disability license authorization card.

BORDERING WATERS

All Kentucky anglers who fish reciprocal waters must have a valid Kentucky fishing license.

OHIO RIVER FISHING

(KRS 150.170)

An angler with a Kentucky fishing license may fish the entire main stem of the Ohio River from a boat, or a bordering state's bank without buying the other state's license (bordering states include Illinois, Indiana and Ohio).

This does not apply if fishing a bordering state's embayments or tributaries, which begin at a straight line between opposite points where the tributary or embayment meets the main stem of the river.

Anglers fishing from a bordering state's bank must follow the size and creel limits of the state where the angler is located. For example, a Kentucky licensed angler can stand on the Indiana bank and fish the main stem of the

Ohio River without an Indiana fishing license, but must abide by Indiana's size and creel limits. However, anglers fishing from a boat must follow the size and creel limits of the state in which the angler is licensed.

Reminder: snagging is not permitted for any fish species on the Indiana side or in any Indiana waters of the Ohio River. In Kentucky, a person may not snag within 200 yards below any dam on the Ohio River.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

(KRS 150.170)

Anglers licensed in Kentucky may fish Missouri portions of the Mississippi River without buying a Missouri fishing license. Each state recognizes the sport fishing licenses and permits of the other state on the Mississippi River. The river is defined as the main channel and immediate side or secondary channels and chutes. It does not include oxbow or floodplain lakes or any tributary streams. A tributary is delineated by the straight line between opposite points where the tributary connects with the main body of the Mississippi River. Furthermore, the river does not include backwaters that extend onto the floodplain or tributaries when the river exceeds 33 feet at the gauging station at Cairo, Illinois.

Sport fishing license or permit holders may fish from, or attach any device or equipment to land along the river under the jurisdiction of the other state. Landowner permission is required to fish from the bank.

Sport fishing license holders shall abide by the regulations in the state in whose waters they are fishing and when fishing in waters they are not licensed to fish, shall comply with the most restrictive regulation.

DALE HOLLOW LAKE

Anglers may use either a Tennessee or a Kentucky sport fishing license while fishing in the Wolf River arm of Dale Hollow Lake. This includes the Illwill Creek embayment beginning at a line crossing the Wolf River at its mouth where it joins the Obey River and the main part of the lake.

Anglers must obey the regulations

of the state in which they are licensed. Kentucky residents must have a Kentucky license.

KENTUCKY LAKE

On Kentucky Lake, anglers with either a valid Kentucky or Tennessee sport fishing license may fish from Eggner's Ferry Bridge (U.S. 68 and Hwy. 80) in Kentucky south to the Governor Ned McWhorter Bridge (U.S. 79 and Hwy. 76) in Tennessee. This includes all embayments and tributaries, except the Blood River embayment in Kentucky. Anglers must abide by the fishing regulations of the state in which they are fishing.

BIG SANDY AND TUG FORK RIVERS

Anglers with a valid Kentucky fishing license may fish the entire main stem of the Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers from the confluence of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers upstream to the Virginia state line. Kentucky anglers can fish from a boat or on West Virginia's bank without buying a West Virginia fishing license.

This does not apply to fishing West Virginia's tributaries or embayments, which begin at a straight line between opposite points where the tributary or embayment meets the main stem of the river.

Kentucky anglers fishing from West Virginia's bank must follow their size and creel limits. However, Kentucky anglers fishing the main stem from a boat must follow Kentucky's size and creel limits.

BIG SOUTH FORK OF THE CUMBERLAND RIVER

Anglers may use either a Tennessee or a Kentucky sport fishing license while fishing that portion of the Big South Fork from the Leatherwood Ford bridge (Hwy. 297) in Tennessee to the Hwy. 92 bridge at Yamacraw, Kentucky.

Anglers must obey the regulations of the state in which they are licensed. Kentucky residents must have a Kentucky license.

OTHER BORDERING WATERS

On all other bordering waters, boundaries are set by state lines. Obey the laws of the state in which you are fishing.



Need fish for your new or renovated pond? Visit fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549 for information about Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's farm pond stocking program.

Q: If I have my pond stocked by the KDFWR, do I have to let the public fish it?

A: No. The deadline to apply for the pond stocking program is September 1 annually and there is a fee.

GENERAL INFORMATION



David Baker photo

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

As a voluntary program, fishing event organizers are strongly urged to use the Tournament web site at fw.ky.gov/tournamentschedule.aspx to register and report on their events. Tournament planners can avoid space con-

flicts with other previously registered events by adjusting the date, time, specific launch areas or weigh-in site for their activities.

Other recreational anglers and boaters can check the web site to see when and where fishing events are scheduled. This will assist them in planning their activities and also help avoid potential space conflicts. Additional permits may be required by the U.S. Army

Bigger tournaments

Fishing tournaments involving more than 100 boats are regulated and permitted by the Division of Law Enforcement, 1-800-858-1549.

Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service or Kentucky State Parks.

Check the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov.

If the launch site for your tournament involves using a marina ramp, please contact the marina operator before scheduling your tournament.

There are over 1,000 fishing tournaments held annually in Kentucky waters. These can be a valuable source of information to our fishery biologists. Following each scheduled event, tournament organizers are asked to report their catch data directly on the tournament web site or on forms which can be sent via postal mail. Voluntary cooperation from tournament organizers will be used in making fishery management decisions. At the end of the tournament season, a summary of tournament results will be sent to all providers. If not provided with one, contact your local fisheries district office. They will provide a packet.

KEEPING YOUR BASS ALIVE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends tournament anglers and directors follow some simple procedures to keep bass alive during summer tournaments that run from June through August. Summer tournament fishing places great stress on bass due to high water temperatures. Please refer to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov for a list of these procedures.

HABITAT

The Kentucky Department of Fish

and Wildlife regularly creates and maintains fish attractors and habitat structures in lakes across Kentucky. These

Q: Can you sell fish caught while possessing only a valid Kentucky sport fishing license?

A: No. It is illegal to sell any fish caught without the proper commercial fishing license and gear.

structures vary in material and benefit sport fish populations while providing anglers productive fishing areas. GPS locations of many of these structures are found at fw.ky.gov.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria found in lakes in Kentucky and throughout the United States. They oc-

cur naturally, but if their numbers get too high they can pose health risks to humans and animals. Anglers, hunters, boaters and all others who might use these water resources should be aware of the potential risks associated with these blooms. Both the Kentucky Division of Water and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have initiated testing of lakes in Kentucky to document these blooms and provide updated information to the public. See fw.ky.gov for more information.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The Kentucky Departments for Environmental Protection, Health Services and Fish and Wildlife Resources jointly issue a fish consumption advisory to the public when fish are found contaminated. Trace contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), mercury and chlordane are found in some fish in Kentucky. An advisory cautions people about potential health problems that may result from eating fish caught from a particular area. An advisory does not ban eating fish; it is a guide to reduce your risk. This guide provides information on how often fish may be safely eaten. Most fish are healthy to eat and are an excellent source of low-fat protein.

other women are not included in the consumption notice.

Organic mercury can occur naturally in the environment and does not affect swimmers, skiers or boaters. Fish can accumulate low levels of mercury by eating plankton and other small aquatic creatures.

CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

A new method for reporting fish consumption advisories has been adopted. Consumption rates for specific fish have been developed based on a meal of ½ pound of fish (before cooking) eaten by a 150-pound individual. Following these guidelines and spacing your meals of those fish species

Sensitive population

Women of childbearing age, children 6 years of age or younger, pregnant and nursing women and women who plan to become pregnant should follow the advisories in the "Sensitive Population" category.

will limit your health risks by reducing your total exposure. See table on the next page.

For the most up-to-date consumption advisory information, please visit fw.ky.gov.

STATEWIDE

All waters are under advisory for mercury. Women of childbearing age and children 6 years of age or younger should eat no more than one meal per week of freshwater fish. Adult men and

REDUCE YOUR RISK

Risks from eating contaminated fish can be reduced by the following:

- fillet the fish, remove the skin and trim all fat
- do not eat fish eggs
- broil, grill or bake the fillets instead of frying or microwaving
- do not eat or reuse juices or fats that cook out of the fish.

PARASITES AND GRUBS IN FISH

Kentucky anglers will occasionally clean a fish and find a white or yellowish color worm in the fish's flesh that is about the size of a grain of rice. Or, when stream fishing, an angler will encounter a smallmouth bass or sunfish with small black specks on its belly or across its body.

This is a parasitic fluke that requires different host animals to complete its life cycle: a fish eating bird, a snail and a fish. The grub matures and produces eggs inside a host fish-eating bird such as a Great Blue Heron. The eggs enter the water from the bird's droppings

or from its mouth. The eggs hatch and tiny larvae of the parasite burrow into a snail. After a time in the snail, the parasite changes form and swims to its next host, a fish. Inside the fish, the parasite changes to a grub form and waits for the fish to be eaten. Then, the cycle repeats.

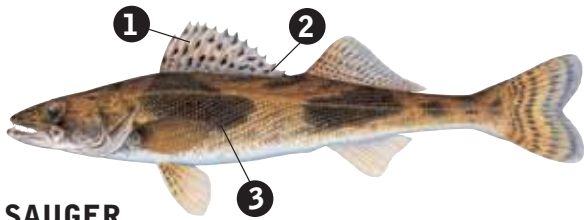
The angler's first instinct is to discard any fish with either the grubs in the flesh or black specks on the body. Grub-infested fish are safe to eat. Grubs do not infect people. Remove any grubs found and prepare the fish as you normally would.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

NUMBER OF MEALS PER SPECIES	General Population	Sensitive Population
DRAKES CREEK, Simpson Co. (from dam on W. Fork at Franklin, KY downstream to confluence with Barren River)		
All species (PCB)	No consumption	
FISH LAKE, Ballard Co. (from lake headwaters to outflow of Shawnee Creek)		
Black bass* and suckers/carp (mercury)	1/month	6/year
FISHTRAP LAKE, Pike Co. (from VA/KY state line to Fishtrap Lake dam)		
Channel catfish, drum, white bass and suckers/carp (PCB and mercury)	1/month	6/year
Black bass* and flathead catfish (PCB and mercury)	1/week	1/month
FIVE PONDS, McCracken Co.		
All species (mercury)	No consumption	
GREEN RIVER LAKE (from lake headwaters to dam)		
Black bass*, catfish, drum (mercury) and suckers/carp (PCB)	1/month	6/year
GUIST CREEK LAKE, Shelby Co. (from lake headwaters to dam)		
Black bass* (mercury)	1/month	6/year
KNOX CREEK, Pike Co. (from VA/KY state line to Tug Fork River)		
Flathead catfish (PCB and mercury)	No consumption	
Channel catfish and drum (PCB)	6/year	No consumption
Black bass*, crappie and rock bass (PCB and mercury)	1/month	6/year
LAKE CUMBERLAND (from confluence of Laurel and Cumberland rivers to Wolf Creek Dam)		
Black bass* (mercury)	1/month	6/year
Crappie and rock bass (mercury)	1/week	1/month
LITTLE BAYOU CREEK, McCracken Co.		
All species (PCB)	No consumption	
METROPOLIS LAKE, McCracken Co.		
All species (PCB and mercury)	1/month	6/year
MUD RIVER, Logan Co. (from headwaters to Wolf Lick Creek)		
Catfish, drum, suckers/carp (PCB)	No consumption	
Black bass*, crappie and sunfish (PCB)	1/month	6/year
MUD RIVER, Butler and Muhlenberg cos. (from Wolf Lick Creek to Green River)		
Catfish, drum, suckers/carp (PCB)	1/month	6/year
Black bass*, rock bass, crappie and sunfish (PCB)	1/week	1/month
OHIO RIVER, UPPER REACH (mouth of the Big Sandy River to Markland L&D)		
Channel catfish over 21" and paddlefish (and their eggs)	6/year	No consumption
Carp, channel catfish under 21", drum, flathead catfish, hybrid striped bass, sauger, smallmouth buffalo and white bass	1/month	6/year
Black bass*	1/week	1/month
White crappie	unlimited	1/week
OHIO RIVER, MIDDLE REACH (Markland L&D to Cannelton L&D)		
Channel catfish over 21" and paddlefish (and their eggs)	6/year	No consumption
Carp, channel catfish under 21", drum, hybrid striped bass and white bass	1/month	6/year
Black bass*, flathead catfish and sauger	1/week	1/month
OHIO RIVER, LOWER REACH (Cannelton L&D to mouth of Ohio River)		
Paddlefish (and their eggs)	6/year	No consumption
Blue catfish over 14", channel catfish, carp, drum, hybrid striped bass and white bass	1/month	6/year
Blue catfish under 14", bigmouth buffalo, black bass* and sauger	1/week	1/month
White crappie	unlimited	1/week
TOWN BRANCH, Logan Co.		
All species (PCB)	No consumption	

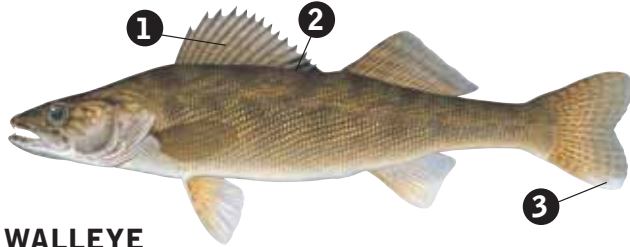
*Black bass include largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass.

ANGLER'S FISH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



SAUGER

1. Rows of dark spots on spiny dorsal fin, 2. No dark blotch at rear of spiny dorsal fin, 3. Dark saddle-like blotches which extend onto the sides of the body



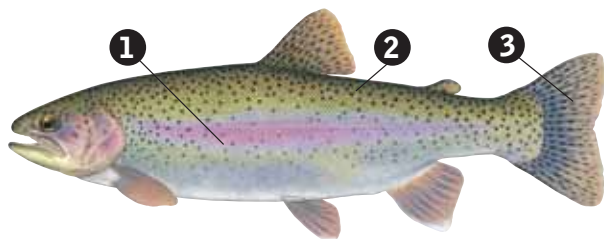
WALLEYE

1. Dark streaks or blotches on spiny dorsal fin, but not distinct spots, 2. Dark blotch at rear of spiny, dorsal fin, 3. White spot on lower lobe of tail fin



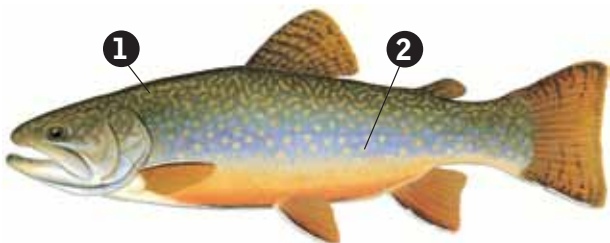
BROWN TROUT

1. Dark spots and orange or red spots with blue halos, 2. No spots on tail fin



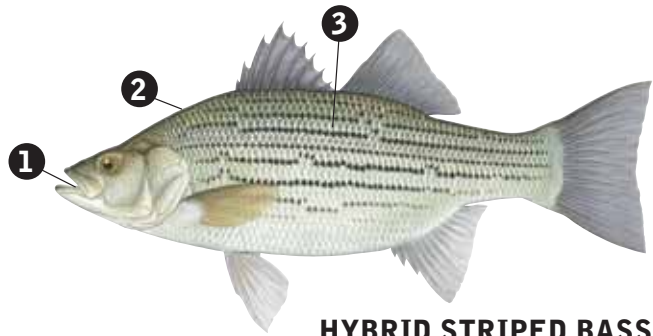
RAINBOW TROUT

1. Pink to red stripe on side, 2. Back and sides heavily speckled, 3. Spots on tail fin



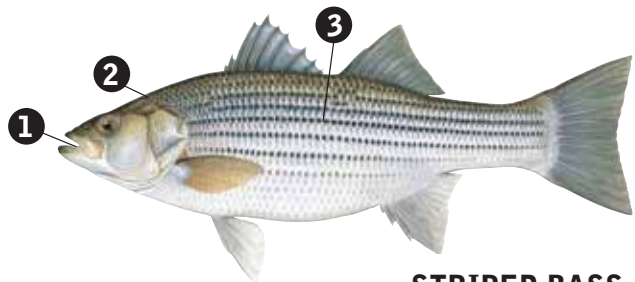
BROOK TROUT

1. Worm-like markings (vermiculations) on upper body, 2. Pale spots on dark background



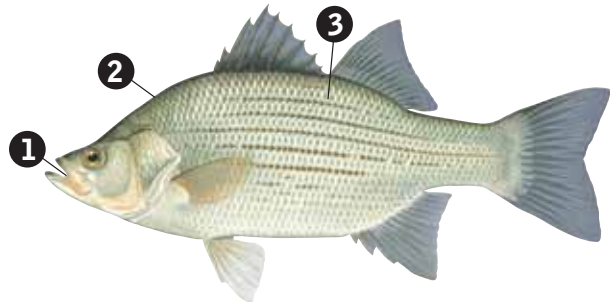
HYBRID STRIPED BASS

1. Tooth patch on tongue consists of two rows of teeth, often partially joined, 2. Back moderately arched, 3. Most stripes are broken, many more than once



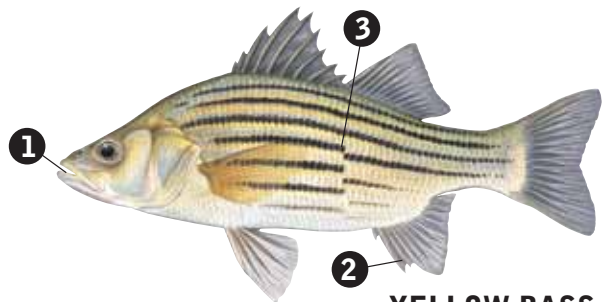
STRIPED BASS

1. Tooth patch on tongue consists of two distinctly split, parallel rows of teeth, 2. Back slightly arched, more streamlined, 3. Stripes very distinct and most extend fully onto tail



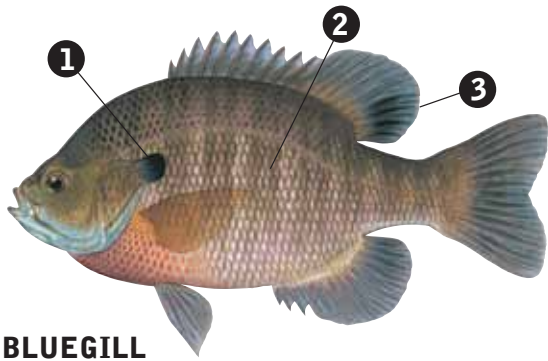
WHITE BASS

1. Single tooth patch on tongue, 2. Back arched, 3. Stripes often faint and irregular



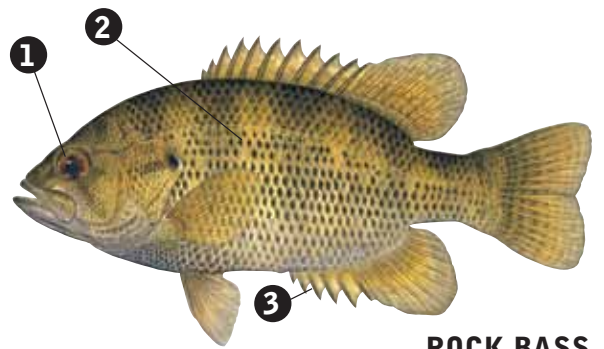
YELLOW BASS

1. No tooth patch on tongue, 2. Second and third anal spines nearly same length, 3. Stripes distinct and broken above anal fin



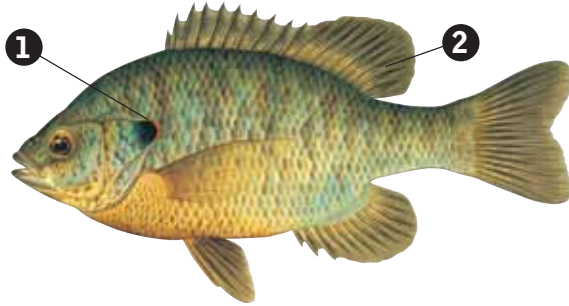
BLUEGILL

1. Gill flap black, 2. Vertical bars on side, 3. Dark blotch at rear of soft dorsal fin



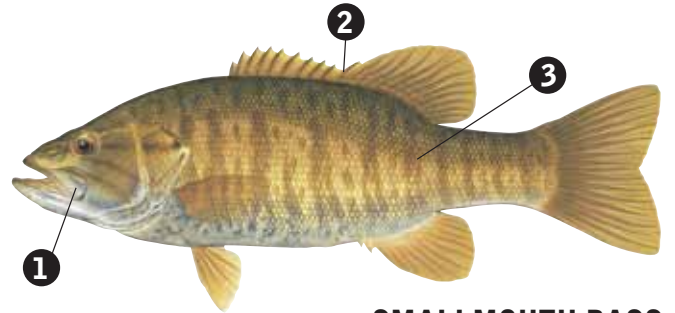
ROCK BASS

1. Eye rimmed in red, 2. Most scales have a dark spot, 3. Anal fin has five or six spines



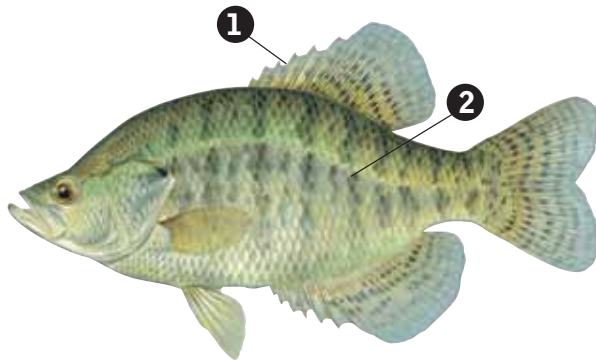
REDEAR SUNFISH

1. Gill flap black with orange or red margin, 2. No dark blotch at rear of soft dorsal fin



SMALLMOUTH BASS

1. Upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye, 2. Shallow notch between dorsal fins, 3. Bronze colored with vertical bars on side



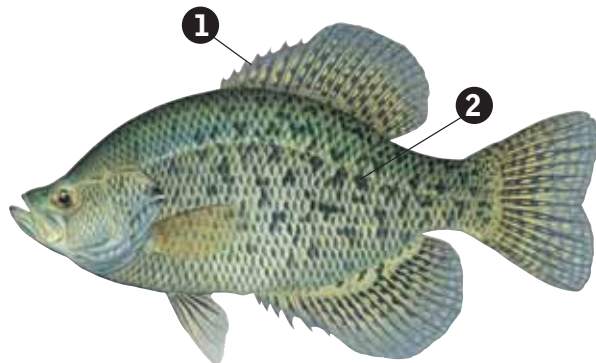
WHITE CRAPPIE

1. Dorsal fin has five or six spines, 2. Vertical bars on side



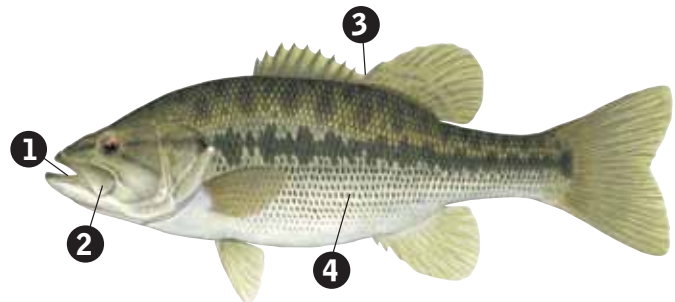
LARGEMOUTH BASS

1. Upper jaw extends beyond back of eye, 2. Dorsal fins separated by deep notch, 3. Tongue usually without tooth patch



BLACK CRAPPIE

1. Dorsal fin has seven or eight spines, 2. Irregular black blotches on side



SPOTTED BASS

1. Single tooth patch on tongue, 2. Upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye, 3. Shallow notch between dorsal fins, 4. Rows of dark spots below lateral line

KENTUCKY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED FISHES

These five species of fish are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to take these fish species and utilize them for any purpose including as live bait for fishing (see page 10).



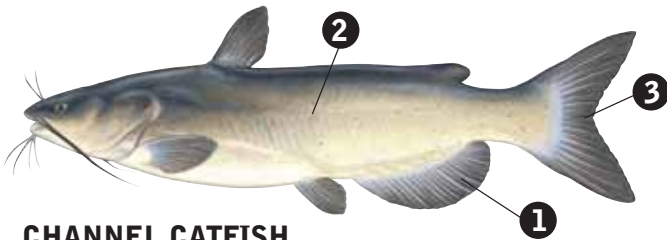
MUSKELLUNGE

1. Duck-like bill with sharp teeth, 2. No scales on lower half of cheek and gill flap



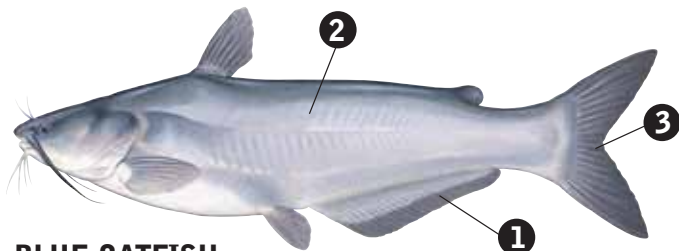
FLATHEAD CATFISH

1. Lower jaw projects far beyond upper jaw, 2. Tail fin not deeply forked, 3. Head is compressed on flathead catfish



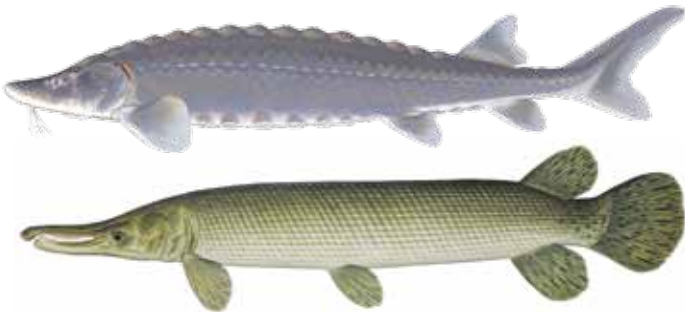
CHANNEL CATFISH

1. Outer margin of anal fin rounded, with 24 to 29 rays, 2. Dark spots usually on body, 3. Tail fin deeply forked



BLUE CATFISH

1. Outer margin of anal fin straight, with 30 to 35 rays, 2. Body without dark spots, 3. Tail fin deeply forked



LAKE STURGEON (top) and ALLIGATOR GAR

Lake sturgeon may not be harvested statewide. Alligator gar are part of a new restoration effort in western Kentucky. If you see or catch these fish, please report the catch or sighting to Matt Thomas at (502) 564-7109. Release caught alligator gar.



BLACKSIDE DACE

Found only in small (wadeable) streams in the Upper Cumberland River Basin including Letcher, Harlan, Bell, Whitley, Knox, McCreary, Pulaski and Laurel counties.



CUMBERLAND DARTER

Found only in small (wadeable) streams in the Upper Cumberland River drainage including Whitley and McCreary counties.



PALEZONE SHINER

Found only in the Little South Fork of the Cumberland River in McCreary and Wayne counties.



RELICT DARTER

Found only in the Bayou du Chien River in Hickman and Graves counties.



TUXEDO DARTER

Found only in the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River in McCreary County.

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

It's the law

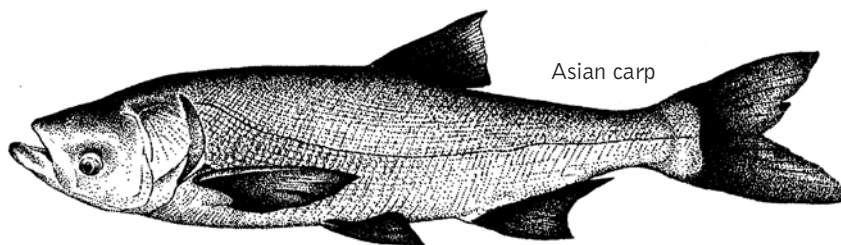
No live fish, live minnow, or live bait organisms not native or established in Kentucky shall be bought, sold, possessed, imported, or in any way used or released into Kentucky waters.

Sport anglers unintentionally and intentionally stock fish in Kentucky's public waters. These species mainly include gizzard shad and alewives that are present in several water bodies. Gizzard shad have been illegally released in several small public lakes where they previously were not present. They interfere with the lake's ability to support a quality bluegill population. Alewives are a non-native fish illegally stocked into several Kentucky lakes. The total impact of these fish is not known, but they are known to eat young fish, including sport fishes.

Additionally, there are many non-native aquatic species that invaded the country, particularly in Great Lake states. These include both plants and animals such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian carp, hydrilla, spring water flea, and zebra mussels.

ASIAN CARP

Two new species of Asian carp, the big head and silver, have invaded river systems in Kentucky. Any river or large stream tributary to the Ohio or Mississippi Rivers most likely possess Asian carp. Both of these species are plankton eaters and may exceed 50 pounds in size. Their impact on native species is not presently known, but they represent a competitive threat to other plankton eating fish such as our native paddlefish and most of our sport fish at



HELP KEEP OUT NON-NATIVE SPECIES

- CLEAN your boat and trailer before launching into or leaving any waterbody.
- REMOVE all plants and animals.
- DRAIN all water from bilges and livewells.
- DISPOSE of unwanted live bait on shore – DO NOT STOCK THE LAKE!
- RINSE your boat, trailer and equipment with high pressure hot water.
- DRY everything for at least five days.

early life stages.

Very young Asian carp in these river systems can be easily mistaken as shad or skipjack herring. **All bait collectors using cast or dip nets should never dispose of any live bait into other water bodies due to the potential threat of spreading these aquatic nuisance species.**

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Kentucky has zebra mussels present in our waters and are at nuisance levels in the Ohio River. They attach themselves to any solid submerged surface in a cluster, reproduce rapidly, and pose a serious threat to native freshwater mussel populations. These mussels have elongated pointed shells less than two inches long with a zebra like pat-



tern of stripes. Zebra mussels can live 8 to 10 days out of water and can be transported to another water body while attached to a boat.

HYDRILLA

Hydrilla is an exotic plant invading Kentucky through transfer of plant fragments by boats and personal watercraft. All it takes is a small fragment of the plant to start a new colony. This plant forms extremely dense mats that grow to the surface of the waterbody making boating and swimming difficult. It literally fills shallow areas from top to bottom with vegetation.

Hydrilla also chokes out native plants and displaces fish. It is extremely difficult to eradicate once it becomes established.

In order to limit the spread of this nuisance plant, please check all trailer parts, boat motor and other equipment for mud or pieces of plant and remove before leaving the lake.



The Angler's Legacy program aims to mobilize the 7.5 million avid anglers in the United States to "take someone fishing." The program intends to pass the angling legacy down to the next generation. Take the pledge by logging on to www.anglerslegacy.org to take a child, friend, co-worker or relative on a fishing trip.

TROUT WATERS

TROUT REGULATIONS

SPORT FISH SPECIES	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Size Limit
Rainbow trout	Daily limit 8, only 3 may be brown trout*		none
Brown trout			12"
Brook trout**	Catch and release only (except on Cumberland River)		

* Possession limit is double the daily creel limit on these species.

**See "Catch and Release Brook Trout Streams" on page 26 and special regulations for Cumberland River on page 6.

EXCEPTIONS

On the Dix River (Herrington Lake tailwaters), fishing is permitted with artificial baits only. Live or organic bait may not be possessed while fishing this two-mile section of Dix River. The only public access to Dix River below Herrington Dam is via the Kentucky River.

The Cumberland River below Lake Cumberland from the Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee state line is a trophy brown trout area. A 20-inch minimum size limit and a one fish daily creel limit applies to brown trout. A 15- to 20-inch protective slot limit on rainbow trout is in effect for the same section of the Cumberland River. All rainbow trout caught between 15 and 20 inches must be immediately released. Only one rainbow trout of the five fish daily creel limit may be longer than 20 inches. Brook trout have a 1 fish daily creel limit with 15-inch minimum size limit. All anglers on this section



of the Cumberland River, including all tributary streams up to the first riffle and all of Hatchery Creek, must now possess a valid Kentucky trout permit (regardless of species sought). Anglers may not chum or cull trout.

On Hatchery Creek in Russell County, the upper section as designated by signs is open under Cumberland River trout regulations. The newly

constructed lower section is open for catch and release only for all trout species and only artificial baits may be used.

On Paint Creek in Johnson County (Paintsville Lake tailwater), there is a 16-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit on trout from the KY 40 bridge downstream to the first U.S. 460 bridge crossing. Only artificial baits may be used.

On Chimney Top Creek, including Right Fork Chimney Top Creek (Wolfe County), there is a 16-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit for brown trout and only artificial baits may be used.

On Trammel Creek in Allen County, there is a 16-inch minimum size limit and a one fish daily creel limit on brown trout.

TROUT STOCKING

STREAMS

The streams listed on the following pages are stocked with rainbow trout by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the months indicated. Brown trout are

stocked once each year for a put-grow-take fishery. All trout are produced at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery. Visit fw.ky.gov for a list of monthly trout stockings.

CATCH AND RELEASE STREAMS

Some streams indicated in the table have a catch and release season (no har-

vest) from October 1 through March 31, except in Swift Camp Creek where the catch and release season is October 1 through May 31. Only artificial baits may be used during the catch and release season. Statewide regulations apply April through September.

STREAMS

STATEWIDE STREAMS	County	Total Rainbows	Months	Total Browns	Catch and Release (No Harvest) Season
Bark Camp Creek*	Whitley	3,750	3,4,5,6,10	500	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 3.9 miles
Beaver Creek	Wayne	1,500	4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Hwy 90 bridge upstream to Hwy 200 bridge – 2.8 miles
Big Bone Creek	Boone	1,200	4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; inside the Big Bone Lick State Park – 2.1 miles
Big Caney Creek	Elliott	2,500	4,5,10	250	
Cane Creek*	Laurel	3,750	3,4,5,6,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 6.6 miles
Casey Creek	Trigg	8,000	2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 3.6 miles
Chimney Top Creek*	Wolfe		6	450	
Clear Creek	Bell	1,200	4,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Hwy 190 bridge down stream to mouth – 4.5 miles
Craney Creek*	Rowan	1,000	10		
East Fork, Indian Creek*	Menifee	4,500	3,4,5,10	400	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 5.3 miles
East Fork, Little Sandy River	Boyd	400	4		
Elk Spring Creek	Wayne	1,600	4,5,6,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 2.8 miles
Floyds Fork	Jefferson	3,600	3,4,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; US 60 downstream to US 150 – 20 miles
Goose Creek	Casey	1,000	4,5		
Greasy Creek	Leslie	400	4		
Hatchery Creek	Russell	27,000	monthly		
Jennings Creek	Warren	7,000	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	500	
Laurel Creek	Elliott	2,750	4,5,10	250	
Left Fork, Beaver Creek	Floyd	1,200	4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Hwy 122 bridge upstream – 3.6 miles
Looney Creek	Harlan	1,500	4,5,10	700	
Lynn Camp Creek	Hart	2,500	4,5,6,7,10		
Middle Fork, Red River*	Powell/Wolfe	3,000	3,4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; inside of Natural Bridge State Park – 2.2 miles
North Fork, Triplett Creek*	Rowan	1,050	3,4,5		
Otter Creek, Fort Knox Otter Creek ORA	Meade	4,000 7,500	3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 2,3,4,5,10,11	500 (fort only)	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Ft. Knox Military Reservation and Otter Creek ORA – 9.7 miles
Raven Creek	Harrison	400	4		
Right Fork, Beaver Creek	Floyd	1,200	4,5,10		
Right Fork, Buffalo Creek	Owsley	500	4,5		
Rock Creek*	McCreary	15,600	3,4,5,6,9,10, 11,12		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Bell Farm bridge upstream to Tennessee border – 9.8 miles
Round Stone Creek	Hart	2,800	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	200	
Royal Springs	Scott	1,600	6,7,8,10		
Russell Fork	Pike	2,250	4,5,10		
Sinking Creek	Breckinridge	1,200	4,5,6		
Station Camp Creek	Estill	500	4		
Sturgeon Creek	Lee	400	4		
Sulphur Spring Creek	Simpson	2,500	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	200	

STATEWIDE STREAMS (continued)	County	Total Rainbows	Months	Total Browns	Catch and Release (No Harvest) Season
Swift Camp Creek*	Wolfe	1,000	4,10		Oct. 1 - May 31; within Clifty Wilderness Area – 8.0 miles
Trammel Creek	Allen	8,750	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	600	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31 – 4.4 miles
Triplett Creek	Rowan	1,200	3,4,5		
War Fork*	Jackson	2,500	3,4,5,6,10		
West Hickman Creek (Veteran's Park)	Fayette	1,000	2,10		

*Daniel Boone National Forest stream; stockings are not announced.

Get permission

Many of the streams listed in this guide are located on, or adjacent to, privately owned lands. Anyone entering upon or crossing private property must have the permission of the land owner.

TAILWATERS

The following tailwaters receive rainbow and brown trout. Stocking begins in spring and continues into the late fall; monthly totals will vary. Monthly schedules are available through Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling 1-800-858-1549 or logging on to fw.ky.gov.

Leave a note

When planning a boating trip, leave a note, or float plan, with someone to let them know where you are. Include your departure and expected return times, the waters where you will be boating, a description and/or license number of the vessel and where you can be reached in case of emergency.

TAILWATERS	Total Rainbows	Total Browns	Months
Buckhorn	5,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Carr Creek	5,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Cave Run	6,800	0	4,5,6,10,11
Cumberland*	161,000	38,000	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
Dewey	4,000	0	4,5,10,11
Fishtrap	10,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Grayson	5,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Herrington	4,500	1,000	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11
Laurel River	500	250	3,4,5,6,10
Martins Fork	3,750	0	4,5,6,10,11
Nolin River	9,000	0	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
Paintsville	20,000	300	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
Taylorville	3,000	0	4,5,6,11
Yatesville	2,250	0	4,5,11

*Stocking dates for Cumberland River (Lake Cumberland tailwater) will not be announced. Also, sterile rainbow trout and brook trout are stocked in March.

NEW THREAT TO TROUT FISHERIES

The invasive algae known as Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) recently appeared in the Cumberland River (Lake Cumberland tailwater). Didymo, native to northern Europe and Canada, is a white, gray, light brown or beige mass on the stream bottom that resembles shag carpet. Didymo can choke the stream bot-

tom with mats that cover up native plants and crowd out native insects that trout need for food. To prevent the spread of Didymo into other Kentucky tailwaters and streams, anglers who fish the Cumberland River and out-of-state waterways should:

- Inspect all wading gear and boat hulls, livewells, lower units and

trailers for any vegetation after leaving the water and remove.

- If algae or vegetation is discovered later, 1. disinfect with a 2 percent solution of household bleach or, 2. a 5 percent solution of salt or, 3. you may also soak in undiluted vinegar. 4. Allow to air dry for at least 2 days.

LAKES

The lakes below are stocked with rainbow trout in the months indicated. January-March stockings are scheduled based on weather and road conditions.

LAKES	Acreage	Total Rainbows	Months
Alexandria Community Park Lake	7	6,250	2,3,11
Anderson Co. Community Park	1	1,500	2,3,11
Bert Combs	36	4,000	1,4,5,10
Beulah	87	4,000	1,4,5,10
James D. Beville Park	3	1,500	1,3,10
Bloomfield Park	2	1,500	2,3,11
Bob Noble Park	6	6,250	2,3,11
Brickyard Pond	10	6,250	2,3,11
Camp Ernst	25	6,250	2,3,11
Cannon Creek	243	6,000	2,10
Cedar Creek Lake	786	21,000	2,10
Cherokee Park	4	3,750	2,3,10
Cranks Creek	219	5,000	1,4,5,10
Dickerson Lake	2	1,500	1,3,11
Easy Walker Park	2	1,500	2,3,11
Fagen Branch	126	2,000	1,11
Fisherman's Park #3 and #4	4 (2 lakes)	3,000	2,3,10
Fish Pond	32	5,000	1,4,5,10
Grant's Branch	40	2,000	3
Highsplint	6	2,750	1,10
Greenbo	181	11,000	2,10
Jack C. Fisher Park	1	1,500	2,3,10
Jacobson Park	46	12,000	2,3,10
Ky. River WMA Boone Tract, Six Acre Lake	6	2,000	2,10
Kingdom Come State Park	3	3,750	1,3,10
Laurel River	6,060	45,000	1
Lower Sportsman's	3	1,500	2,3,10
Lusby	2	1,500	2,3,11
Madisonville City Park Lake	14	6,250	2,3,11
Maysville-Mason Co. Park Lake	12	6,250	2,3,11
Metcalfe Co.	22	500	3
Middleton Mills Park, Long Pond	1	1,500	2,3,10

LAKES (continued)	Acreage	Total Rainbows	Months
Middleton Mills Park, Shelterhouse	1	1,500	2,3,10
Mike Miller Park	4	3,750	2,3,11
Mill Creek	41	6,000	1,4,5,10
Millennium Park Pond	2	1,500	2,3,11
Martin Co. (Milo) Lake	5	6,250	2,3,11
Mingo	2	1,500	2,3,10
Morton's Lake, Higginson/Henry WMA	1	1,000	2
Paintsville	1,139	4,500	2
Panbowl	75	6,000	3,10
Panther Creek Park	4	3,750	2,3,10
Peabody WMA, Access Pond	1	2,250	1,11
Peabody WMA, Flycatcher Pond	1	1,500	1,11
Peabody WMA, Rob's Pond	11	1,500	1,11
Pollywog	4	3,750	2,3,11
Prisoner's	4	3,750	2,3,10
Sandy Watkins Park Lake	3	1,000	2,3
Scott Co. Park	3	1,500	2,3,11
Southgate	2	1,500	2,3,11
Stanford	43	1,000	4
Three Springs	29	6,250	1,3,11
Tom Wallace Park	5	6,250	2,3,10
Upper Sportsman's	7	6,250	2,3,10
Watterson Park	4	3,750	2,3,10
Waverly Park	5	6,250	2,3,10
Waymond Morris Park Lake	5	6,250	2,3,10
Whitehall Park Lake	6	6,250	2,3,10
William F. Miles Angler Lake	4	3,750	2,3,10
William F. Miles Green Heron Lake	1	1,500	2,3,10
Wood Creek	672	8,000	2,10
Yellow Creek Park	3	1,500	2,3,10

OTHER AREAS

FORT CAMPBELL AND FORT KNOX

Little West Fork, Fletchers Fork and Kinser Pool on Fort Campbell (Tennessee portion) and Otter Creek on Fort Knox (Bullitt, Meade and Hardin counties) military reservations are stocked with rainbow or brown trout. Special fishing regulations apply and a post fishing permit is required in addition to a valid Kentucky fishing license and trout

permit. Contact Community Recreation Division, Hunting and Fishing Unit, Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000; phone: (270)798-2175 or Hunt Control Office, Fort Knox, KY; phone: (502) 624-2712.

CATCH AND RELEASE BROOK TROUT STREAMS

Four streams are catch and release only year-round and only artificial flies

and lures with a single hook may be used on these streams:

- Dog Fork – Wolfe County
- Parched Corn Creek – Wolfe County
- Poor Fork – Letcher County, from the headwaters to first crossing of KY 932
- Shillalah Creek – Bell County, outside the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park

TROPHY FISH



Stacey L. Boik of Evansville, Indiana, holds the state record blue sucker she caught from the Ohio River on Nov. 22, 2009. The fish weighed 8.34 pounds.

TROPHY FISH/MASTER ANGLER AWARD PROGRAM

Anglers who catch, by pole and line, any **one** fish meeting the length requirements below may qualify for the Trophy Fish/Master Angler Awards Program. Anglers who catch **three different species** of trophy status are eligible for the Master Angler Award. There is no time limit in which the three different species must be caught, but each catch must be documented and registered as a trophy fish with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife since the program began in 1987. Species counted toward a Master Angler Award may not be duplicated.

Anglers qualifying for a Kentucky Trophy Fish Award will receive a collectable Kentucky Trophy Fish lapel/hat pin. An angler may only receive one pin per year, but each Trophy Fish caught counts toward the Master Angler Award.

All applications for Trophy Fish/

ELIGIBLE SPECIES	Minimum length
Blue Catfish	35"
Bluegill	10"
Bowfin	25"
Brook Trout	11"
Brown Trout	20"
Bullhead Catfish	14"
Carp	35"
Chain Pickerel	24"
Channel Catfish	28"
Crappie	15"
Flathead Catfish	35"
Freshwater Drum	25"
Gar	40"

Master Angler Award must be received by Feb. 1 the following year to qualify for a lapel/hat pin.

Anglers must register at fw.ky.gov to receive their lapel/hat pin and Trophy

Hybrid Striped Bass	23"
Kentucky (Spotted) Bass	16"
Largemouth Bass	23"
Muskellunge	40"
Rainbow Trout	20"
Redear Sunfish	10"
Redbreast Sunfish	10"
Rock Bass	10"
Sauger	18"
Smallmouth Bass	20"
Striped Bass	36"
Walleye	25"
White Bass	16"
Yellow Perch	10"

Fish Certificate. A photo of the catch must be submitted along with the Trophy Fish/Master Angler application.

Complete details are available by calling 1-800-858-1549 or online at fw.ky.gov.

STATE RECORD FISH PROGRAM

To qualify for the state record fish program, fish must be caught in Kentucky waters by a rod and reel or pole and line only. Fish taken on commercial gear, by trotlines, giggering, snagging, by hand or bow fishing are not eligible.

Fish need to be weighed on a scale certified for legal trade and witnessed by three people must sign the record application. The fish must be identified in person by KDFWR fishery biologist or the manager of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery and not filleted, gutted or cut up.

Applications for the state record fish program are available by calling 1-800-858-1549 or online at fw.ky.gov or from your District Fisheries Office:

WESTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Paul Rister, Murray, (270) 753-3886

NORTHWESTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Rob Rold or Jeremy Shiflet, Calhoun (270) 273-3117

SOUTHWESTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Eric Cummins, Bowling Green (270) 746-7127

CENTRAL FISHERY DISTRICT
Jeff Crosby or Kathryn Spears
Frankfort, 1-800-858-1549

NORTHEASTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Tom Timmermann, Morehead (606) 783-8650

EASTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Kevin Frey, Prestonsburg, (606) 889-1705

SOUTHEASTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
John Williams or Marcy Anderson
Williamsburg, (606) 549-1332

MINOR CLARK FISH HATCHERY
Rod Middleton, Pete Besant or
Scott Barrett, Morehead, (606) 783-8650

PFIEFFER FISH HATCHERY
Steve Marple, Josh Pennington or
Noah Nelson, Frankfort
(502) 564-4957

SPECIES	Weight	Caught By	Location	Date
ANCIENT FISH				
Bowfin	15.08 lbs.	Norman Moran, Lexington, KY	Green River	05/31/99
Longnose Gar	40 lbs.	Kelsie Travis, Jr., Paducah, KY	Ohio River	08/08/56
Paddlefish (Spoonbill)	106 lbs.	William Chumbler, Calvert City, KY	Ohio River	03/23/04
Sturgeon	36 lbs. 8 oz.	Barney Frazier, Corbin, KY	Lake Cumberland	10/03/54
BLACK BASS				
Kentucky (Spotted) Bass	7 lbs. 10 oz.	A.E. Sellers, Louisville, KY	Private lake, Nelson Co.	06/13/70
Largemouth Bass	13 lbs. 10 oz.	Dale Wilson, London, KY	Wood Creek Lake	04/14/84
Smallmouth Bass	11 lbs. 15 oz.	David L. Hayes, Leitchfield, KY	Dale Hollow Lake	07/09/55
Coosa Bass	1.21 lbs.	Seth Goodin, Smith, KY	Martins Fork River	05/25/13
TEMPERATE BASS				
Striped Bass (Rockfish)	58 lbs. 4 oz.	Roger Foster, Somerset, KY	Lake Cumberland	12/11/85
Hybrid Striped Bass	20 lbs. 8 oz.	Mark Wilson, Louisville, KY	Barren River	04/27/91
White Bass	5 lbs. (TIE)	Lorne Eli, Dawson Springs, KY	Kentucky Lake	07/11/43
		B.B. Hardin, Mt. Eden, KY	Herrington Lake	06/03/57
Yellow Bass	1 lb., 6.4 oz.	William Hinton, Central City, KY	Cumberland River, Lake Barkley tailwaters	03/19/09
CARP/SUCKER				
Bighead Carp	64 lbs.	Drew Fulmer, Florence, KY	Kentucky Lake	07/19/10
Blue Sucker	8.34 lbs.	Stacey L. Boik, Evansville, IN	Ohio River	11/22/09
Buffalo (Smallmouth)	55 lbs.	Clinton Roby, Waddy, KY	Kentucky Lake	03/23/00
Common Carp	54 lbs. 14 oz.	Ricky Vance, Paris, KY	South Fork, Licking River	03/13/71
Creek Chub	0.59 lbs	Joshua Scott, Louisville, KY	Otter Creek, Hardin Co.	03/26/06
Golden Redhorse	4 lbs. 5 oz.	Leif Meadows, Stanton, KY	Red River	04/22/98
Grass Carp	58 lbs. 8 oz.	Robert Marsh, Erlanger, KY	Cemetary Lake, Kenton Co.	06/17/09
Northern Hog Sucker	1 lb, 12 oz.	Larry Saclihi, Stanton, KY	Slate Creek, Bath Co.	04/07/05
River Redhorse	9 lbs. 1 oz.	Denny Hatfield, London, KY	Rockcastle River	09/20/03
Silver Carp	9 lbs. 8 oz.	Marvin Joe Southard, McHenry, KY	Ohio River	08/08/04

SPECIES (cont.)	Weight	Caught By	Location	Date
Silver Redhorse	5 lbs. 6 oz.	Justin Collins, London, KY	Rockcastle River	04/17/10
White Sucker	1 lb. 10 oz.	Larry Salchli, Stanton, KY	Slate Creek, Montgomery Co.	03/19/98
CATFISH				
Blue Catfish	104 lbs.	Bruce Midkiff, Owensboro, KY	Ohio River	08/28/99
Bullhead Catfish	5 lbs. 8 oz.	Randy Kirk, Maysville, KY	Private Pond, Mason County	07/06/13
Channel Catfish	32 lbs.	Kyle Estep, South Point, OH	Ohio River	05/26/04
Flathead Catfish	97 lbs.	Esker Carroll	Green River	06/06/56
White Catfish	3.70 lbs.	Steve Lurie, Taylorsville, KY	Guist Creek Lake	07/20/07
DRUM				
Freshwater Drum	38 lbs.	Larry Cardwell, Morgantown, KY	Green River	06/05/80
HERRING				
Skipjack Herring	3.10 lbs.	Joey Dixon, Elizabethtown, KY	Ohio River	04/14/06
MOONEYE				
Goldeye	2.64 lbs.	Mark Smith, Lexington, KY	Kentucky River	04/21/01
PERCH				
Logperch	0.04 lbs.	Jonathan Lapham, Glasgow, KY	Peters Creek	10/22/05
Sauger	7 lbs. 7 oz.	Rastie Andrew, Jamestown, KY	Cumberland River	04/28/83
Saugeye	6 lbs. 9 oz.	Chuck Kouns, South Shore, KY	Ohio River	02/19/98
Walleye	21 lbs. 8 oz.	Abe Black, Shaker Heights, OH	Lake Cumberland	10/01/58
Yellow Perch	1 lb. 7 oz.	Shay Mitchell, Almo, KY	Kentucky Lake	03/01/10
PIKE				
Chain Pickerel	5 lbs. 6 oz.	Tommy Thompson, Bardwell, KY	Forked Lake, Carlisle Co.	07/08/83
Grass Pickerel	10 oz.	Gerald Gallagher, Louisville, KY	Wilson Creek, Bullitt Co.	07/17/89
Muskellunge	47 lbs.	Sarah Terry, Mt. Sterling, KY	Cave Run Lake	11/02/08
Northern Pike	10.53 lbs.	Derek Cowden, Corbin, KY	Laurel River Lake	10/29/06
Tiger Muskie (Muskellunge Hybrid)	19 lbs. 9 oz.	Wayne Joslin, Winchester, KY	Private lake, Clark Co.	04/25/07
SUNFISH				
Bluegill	4 lbs. 3 oz.	Phil Conyers, Madisonville, KY	Strip Mine Lake, Hopkins Co.	08/05/80
Crappie (White or Black)	4 lbs. 14 oz.	Penny Hopper, Crofton, KY	Watershed Lake, Christian Co.	05/08/05
Green Sunfish	1 lb. 9.44 oz.	David Gibson, Hawesville, KY	Farm pond, Hancock Co.	05/20/13
Longear Sunfish	13 oz.	Anthony Lynch, Salyersville, KY	Strip Mine Pond, Magoffin Co.	06/23/94
Redbreast Sunfish	14 oz.	Tim King, Stearns, KY	Marsh Creek, McCreary Co.	09/01/97
Redear Sunfish	3 lbs. 1 oz.	Betty Truax, Finchville, KY	Farm pond, Shelby Co.	05/24/82
Rock Bass	1 lb. 10 oz.	H.S. White, Cadiz, KY	Casey Creek, Trigg Co.	05/26/75
Warmouth	1 lb. 6.2 oz.	John Hoover, Louisville, KY	Private pond, Jefferson Co.	07/21/03
TROUT				
Brook Trout	3.08 lbs.	Chris Fugate, Jamestown, KY	Cumberland River	05/01/14
Brown Trout	21 lbs.	Thomas Malone, Crofton, KY	Cumberland River	04/30/00
Lake Trout	5 lbs. 5 oz.	John McDonogh, Jeffersontown, KY	Cumberland River	04/04/83
Rainbow Trout	14 lbs. 6 oz.	Jim Mattingly, Somerset, KY	Cumberland River	09/10/72

Note: Line class records are not maintained by the KDFWR.

Bowfishing records

The United Bowhunters of Kentucky maintains a state record program for fish harvested by bow and arrow. Visit their website at www.kystatebowfishingrecords.com for details, guidelines and current state records.

BOATING

BOATING REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This publication provides basic information for most boaters and answers the most commonly asked questions. However, it is not all inclusive. For further information, please contact the Division of Law Enforcement, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601 or call 1-800-858-1549.

For emergencies, officers may be contacted by dialing 1-800-252-5378, or local law enforcement agency or through the nearest Kentucky State Police post. One may use marine channel 16 to contact a local marina.

REGISTRATION

(301 KAR 6:001, 6:010)

All mechanically powered vessels used primarily in this state must have a Kentucky registration. Boats are registered at the county clerk's office. Persons may register in the county of their residence or the county of principal use. Boat registrations expire April 30 each year.

Boats registered in other states may be used for up to 60 consecutive days in Kentucky without registering here.

All boats operated in Kentucky must have the registration certificate on board. Boats that are rented from a marina or boat livery must have a lease agreement on board.

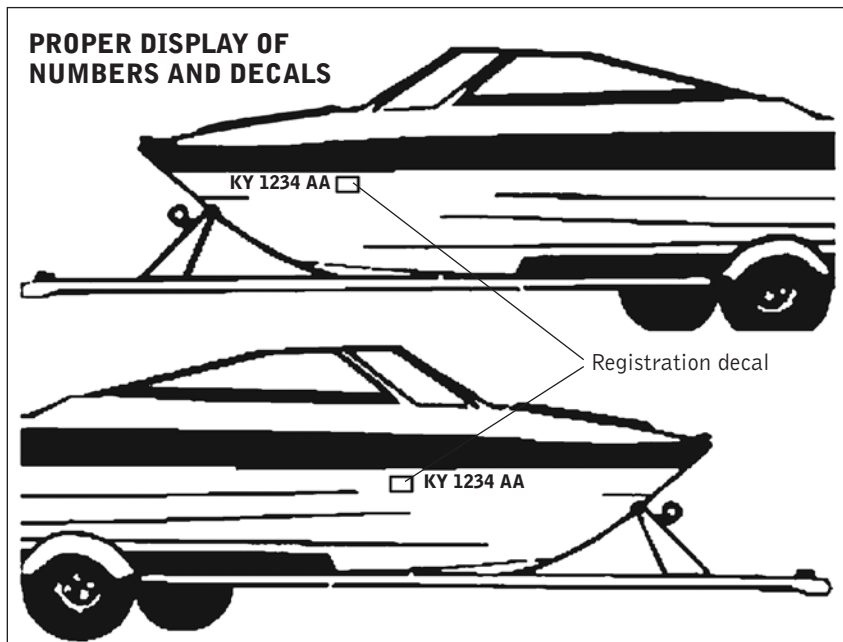
DISPLAY OF NUMBER AND DECAL

Once boats are assigned a registration number and decals, they must be displayed correctly. The number assigned, and no other, shall be displayed on the bow, or forward half, of each side of the vessel, read from left to right, and in a position to be distinctly visible. The letters and numbers must be of a plain block design, at least three (3) inches in height, and of a color that will provide maximum contrast to the background (light numbers on a dark hull or vice versa).

There must be a letter size space be-

BOAT REGISTRATION FEES	
Class A Vessels (less than 16' in length)	\$19.00
Class 1 Vessels (16' to less than 26' in length)	\$23.00
Class 2 Vessels (26' to less than 40' in length)	\$29.00
Class 3 Vessels (over 40' in length)	\$33.00
Inboard boats (regardless of size)	\$34.00
Boats propelled by an electric (trolling) motor only	\$9.00

The above costs do not include property taxes, clerks fees, titling fees or any other applicable charges. (301 KAR 6:005)



tween letter and number groups:

Correct: KY 1234 AA

Incorrect: KY1234AA

Registration decals are to be placed within six inches behind (aft) and in line with the registration number. Upon renewal every year, old registration decals are to be removed and the current ones applied.

TRANSFER, DESTRUCTION OR ABANDONMENT

When ownership of a currently registered boat changes, it is the respon-

sibility of the purchaser to take the endorsed title to the county clerk and have the boat transferred into the name of the new owner. This procedure must be done upon completion of the transaction.

Whenever a vessel is transferred, the seller shall, within 15 days, give the county clerk notice of the transfer of his interest in the vessel.

Whenever a vessel is destroyed or abandoned, the owner shall, within 15 days, give notice to the county clerk to terminate the registration. The owner shall remove the numbers and decals from the vessel.

BOAT, MOTOR and LAKE USAGE

Bordering waters

Kentucky boaters on the Ohio River may also be subject to the laws of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and the U.S. Coast Guard.

(301 KAR 1:012, 1:015)

Maximum horsepower limits and other boat motor and lake usage regulations apply on many small public fishing lakes. (For boat size limits see box on this page.)

MOTOR SIZE RESTRICTIONS:

Operation of electric or internal combustion motors prohibited: Lake Chumley, Dennie Gooch Lake and Kingdom Come Lake.

Operation of internal combustion motors prohibited: Ballard WMA lakes, Benjy Kinman Lake, Bert T. Combs Lake, Briggs Lake, Carpenter and Kingfisher lakes, Carter Caves State Park Lake (a.k.a. Smoky Valley Lake), Lebanon City Lake (a.k.a. Fagan Branch Lake), Fishpond Lake, Lincoln Homestead State Park Lake, McNeely Lake, Marion County Lake, Martin County Lake, Metcalfe County Lake, Mauzy Lake, Mill Creek Lake, Lake

Reba, Spurlington Lake, Swan Lake WMA (excluding Swan Lake), Washburn Lake, Pikeville City Lake.

Motors larger than 10 HP must operate at idle speed at all times on Beaver Lake, Boltz Lake, Bullock Pen Lake, Corinth Lake, Cranks Creek (Herb Smith) Lake, Elmer Davis Lake, Kincaid Lake, Martins Fork Lake, Shanty Hollow Lake and Swan Lake.

Idle Speed Only: Carnico Lake, Greenbo Lake, Pan Bowl Lake, Wilgreen Lake and all Peabody WMA lakes including Goose, Island and South.

Lake Malone and Lake Beshear: No horsepower restrictions on boat motors.

Guist Creek Lake: Pontoon boat maximum length is 24 feet.

Note

Horsepower limits on several lakes changed after publication of the print guide. This version reflects the current regulations.

WATER-SKIING

While this section is titled water-skiing, it applies to persons being towed on any device such as knee boards, inner tubes, etc. Water-skiing is only allowed between sunrise and sunset. Additionally, it is illegal to manipulate skis, surfboards, etc. while intoxicated or under the influence of any other substance that impairs one's operating ability.

Both the operator and skier should be alert to the areas of a lake or river marked as "no ski." Persons shall not ski within 100 feet of a commercial boat dock, a moorage harbor or a swimming area or within 2,000 feet of a lock or dam.

Skiers who ski too close to other boats, docks and obstructions are showing poor judgement. Many of the complaints officers receive while patrolling the water are those about skiers skiing too close.

Persons being towed on any device must wear a Type I, II or III PFD. Boats (including personal watercraft) towing skiers must have, in addition to the operator of the boat, an observer 12 years of age or older or a wide angle rearview mirror mounted so that the operator can

check on the skier but still give full attention to traffic ahead. There must be adequate seating for all riders.

Boats towing kites and similar airborne devices must:

- Have, in addition to the operator, an observer 12 years or older (mirror will

ON ALL KENTUCKY FISH & WILDLIFE-OWNED/ MANAGED LAKES:

- Boaters must use idle speed (slowest speed possible to maintain maneuverability of a boat) when passing another boat with an occupant actively engaged in fishing.
- The centerline of boats on the water cannot exceed 22 feet as measured on deck or bow to stern on all lakes owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- On Cedar Creek Lake, Lake Beshear and Lake Malone only, float boats may have decking and pontoons up to 30 feet; on Guist Creek Lake pontoon max length is 24 feet. There is no size restriction on canoes.
- Houseboats are not permitted.
- Personal watercrafts are prohibited on Cedar Creek Lake.
- Swimming is permitted only in designated areas when a qualified lifeguard is on duty.
- Skin or scuba diving is not permitted.
- Boat motors without underwater exhaust are not permitted.

Water-skiing permitted as designated by signs on Guist Creek Lake and Lake Beshear from 10:00 a.m. to sunset beginning the third Thursday in May ([May 21, 2015](#)) through September 30. Similarly, water-skiing is permitted on Lake Malone beginning the third Thursday in May ([May 21, 2015](#)) through October 31. Water-skiing and tubing are prohibited on Cedar Creek Lake.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

A person must be 12 years or older to operate a motorboat (including personal watercraft) 10 horsepower or over on Kentucky public waters. A person 12-17 years old shall possess a Kentucky Safe Boating Certificate Card or a certificate showing successful completion of a NASBLA approved boater education course. For information about Kentucky's Boater Education program, call 1-800-858-1549 or on the internet, log on to [fwi.ky.gov](#). Persons under 12 years of age must wear a personal flotation device (lifejacket) while in the open portion of a boat that is under way.

- not suffice),
- Stay 500 feet from commercial docks and ramps,
- Limit the tow rope to 150 feet or less,
- Have no more than two persons being towed.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

The term “personal watercraft” (PWC) means a vessel which uses an internal combustion engine to power a jet pump for its primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel rather than by a person sitting or standing inside the vessel. In addition to being governed by the same laws that apply to all boats, the following laws apply to personal watercraft:

- Personal watercraft can only be operated between sunrise and sunset.
- Personal watercraft without self-circling capability must have a lanyard-type engine kill switch attached to the operator when the craft is underway.
- Operators and passengers must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD.)

Because of their small size and low profile, operators of PWCs should exercise defensive driving. These craft are highly responsive and capable of quick turns. In fact, this is part of the fun of their operation. However, this kind of operation is reckless if done in congested areas of boat traffic.

SKIN AND SCUBA DIVING

(301 KAR 1:410, 6:030)

Skin or SCUBA diving is prohibited in all lakes owned or managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, except during emergencies, **on Greenbo Lake** and during salvage operations when the diver has

DIVERS DOWN FLAGS

Boaters should exercise caution



Alpha Flag (left): Blue with a silver stripe, displayed on vessel with restricted mobility because of diving operation. **Diver's Flag** (right): Red flag at least 12" x 12" with diagonal stripe at least three inches wide, displayed where diver is submerged.

written permission from the regional director or local wildlife and boating law enforcement officer assigned to the specific body of water in which the diving is to take place.

Persons diving or submerging with the aid of a mechanical breathing apparatus in an area where boats might be are required by law to display the diver's flag.

This flag should be put on a buoy, boat or other floating platform so boaters will readily see it. Approaching boats must stay outside of a 100-foot radius of the flag. Divers must surface within a 50-foot radius unless there is an emergency.

Divers shall not dive in established traffic lanes nor interfere with anyone fishing unless emergency operations are in progress.

SWIMMING

Swimming in any lake owned or managed by the KDFWR is prohibited except in areas specifically set aside for swimming at which a qualified lifeguard is on duty. Kentucky law specifically

prohibits swimming at any boat launching ramp. Swim in marked and supervised areas. If you are a nonswimmer or a poor swimmer, wear a PFD. Remember, PFDs are not just for boaters.

Refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages when swimming. Alcohol greatly reduces a person's reflexes and strength when in the water. For persons who have had alcoholic beverages a PFD is the difference between life and death.

Persons who wish to swim a long distance should swim parallel to the shore instead of across a river or lake. Boaters don't normally expect to see swimmers in the middle of a lake or river and may run over them.

INFLATABLES

Air mattresses, inner tubes and other similar devices are generally used as recreational items by persons swimming or sunbathing. Use of these items should be restricted to designated or generally recognized swimming areas and not be used in areas of boat traffic. Nonswimmers or poor swimmers should not depend on these devices to save their life. These items can be punctured and lose their buoyancy – wear a PFD!

LITTERING

(KRS 433.757)

The operator of any motorboat or vessel is responsible for any litter thrown into the water. Litter is not only unsightly, but can be dangerous to humans and animals. For example, fishing line discarded into the water can be hazardous to wildlife and to a boat's lower unit. Animals can be ensnared in the line and die. Fishing line caught on a prop shaft can cause seal leaks and lower unit failure. Trot lines and limb lines can snare animals and other anglers in boats.

BOAT OPERATION

RECKLESS OPERATION

The operator of a watercraft is responsible for damage caused by negligent operation. The following actions are considered reckless operation and are therefore against the law:

- weaving through traffic;
- following watercraft too closely that is towing an individual on waterskis, a

- surfboard or any water sport device;
- jumping the wake of another craft in a way that endangers human life, physical safety or property;
- cutting between a boat and the individual(s) being towed by the boat;
- crossing the path of another boat when visibility is obstructed;
- steering toward an object or individual

in the water and turning sharply at close range.

Persons shall not operate a motorboat or personal watercraft within 50 feet of a commercial vessel and its tow that is in operation on a waterway, except if the operator of the commercial vessel has given consent.

When operating in a busy area, re-

duce speed and allow plenty of room for avoidance maneuvers. Even in areas that are not marked as idle speed, excessive wake can still be dangerous. Operators of larger craft should be aware of the wake their vessels are throwing.

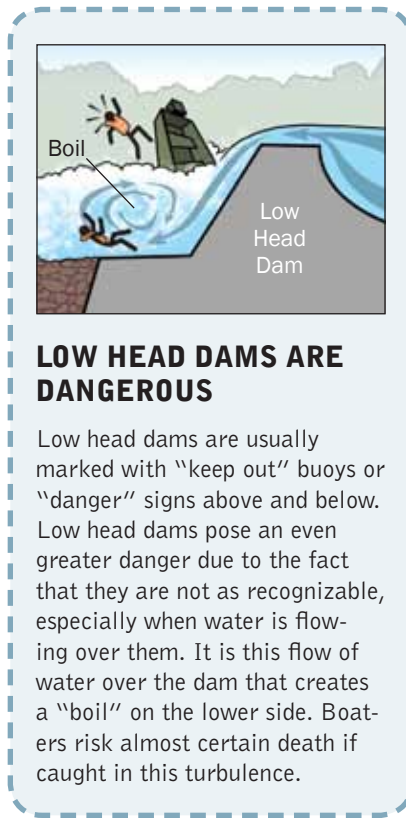
IDLE SPEED

Kentucky law defines idle speed as the “slowest speed possible to maintain maneuverability” of a boat. Generally speaking for a properly adjusted boat, this is the speed when a boat is put into gear without advancing the throttle. Wakes can capsize small boats or cause damage to boats moored at marinas and docks. It is extremely important that boat operators be aware of their speed and the resulting wake. Operators are liable for any injuries or damage caused by their boat’s wake.

Boaters may see buoys or signs that say “No Wake.” This means that boats must be at idle speed.

LOCKS AND DAMS

Boaters in Kentucky may encounter lock and dam systems. Generally, these will be on the Green, Ohio and Kentucky Rivers (for the first four locks upstream to Frankfort, KY), but a few impoundments have a lock and dam. Locks are a relatively simple method of raising or lowering boats from one water level to another. If lockage is desired, boaters should signal the lock operator by using the pull chain on each end of the lock or call on marine channel 13. If the lock is not immediately available, boaters should position their vessels a safe distance from the approach chan-



LOW HEAD DAMS ARE DANGEROUS

Low head dams are usually marked with “keep out” buoys or “danger” signs above and below. Low head dams pose an even greater danger due to the fact that they are not as recognizable, especially when water is flowing over them. It is this flow of water over the dam that creates a “boil” on the lower side. Boaters risk almost certain death if caught in this turbulence.

nel to avoid personal injury or damage to their boat from wakes caused by commercial tows entering or leaving the locks. Never moor a vessel in the lock approach channels.

Dams associated with the locks can be very dangerous. Below all locks and dams, boat occupants must wear a personal floatation device (lifejacket) upstream of danger signs and open-diamond buoys or within 150 feet of the downstream lock and dam wall. **Anglers**

should never fish from or stand on lock and dam structures.

Boaters should be alert for these structures. Dams are either conventional or “low head” type. Conventional dams are easily recognizable with their spillways and power installations.

RESTRICTED ZONES

(KAR 6:030)

Kentucky law prohibits boats from operating within restricted areas as posted above or below navigation, power generating or flood control dams.

No fish is worth risking your life. Be aware of trespassing and danger zones. Wear a PFD when entering any area above or below a dam.

OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

(KRS 235.240)

It is against the law to operate a boat or vessel including personal watercraft, manipulate water skis, surfboard or other similar device while intoxicated or under the influence of any other substance that impairs one’s driving ability. Any person who operates a vessel on Kentucky waters is considered to have given consent to a test or tests to determine his alcohol concentration or the presence of other drugs. The tests shall be administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that the operator is intoxicated. An operator refusing the test shall be in violation of the law and subject to the same penalties.

Anyone who operates a boat, PWC,

SMALL CRAFT PRECAUTIONS

Statistics show that approximately half the boat-related fatalities involve boats that are less than 16’ in length. These boats are usually unstable and can tip over, throwing the occupants overboard. Also, these boats can be easily swamped, especially if used on a large body of water where the wind can cause high waves. When using such craft, be aware of the hazards. Wearing a personal floatation device (PFD) is strongly recommended.

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT CHART

Body Weight (in pounds)	Number of Drinks in a Two Hour Period 12 oz. beer = 5 oz. wine = 1 oz. 80 proof liquor								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
100	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
120	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
140	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
160	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
180	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
200	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
220	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
240	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

BAC to .05% - Be careful. Loss of judgement and coordination.

BAC .05% to .07% - Abilities impaired. Chance of accident increased.

BAC .08% and over - Do not operate a boat. High risk of accident, subject to arrest.

skis, surfboard or similar device while intoxicated with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or higher or while under the influence of any substance that impairs the operator's driving ability may be subject to fines and possible jail time if convicted.

DRINKING IN PUBLIC AND PUBLIC INTOXICATION (KRS 222.202)

Kentucky law specifically prohibits the drinking of alcoholic beverages in public places (this excludes establishments licensed to sell such beverages) and the waterways of this state are considered public places.

Further, in a public place, persons who are manifestly under the influence

of alcoholic beverages to the extent that they may unreasonably annoy or endanger themselves or others shall be subject to arrest.

PROHIBITED RIDING

Approximately half of boat related fatalities result from falls overboard. When operating a motorboat above idle speed the operator or passengers shall not ride on an enclosed bow, outside protective railing of a pontoon or houseboat, on a seat which extends six inches above the plane of the gunwales, nor shall they ride on the sides, back, engine cover, back of seat, or any other obviously dangerous position which could lead to falling overboard.

RULES OF THE ROAD

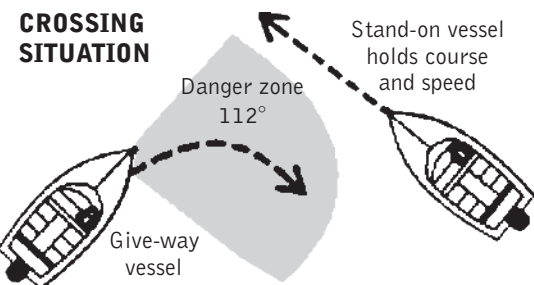
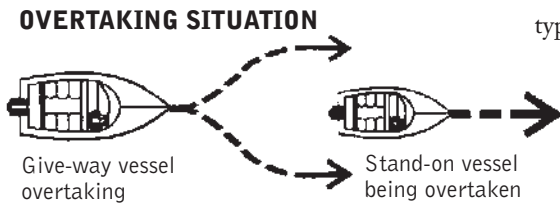
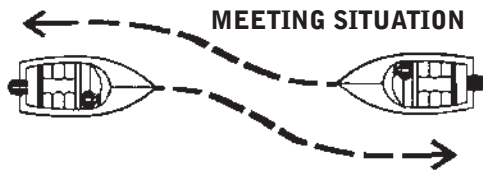
On the water there are no painted lines to mark where boats must go. In order to provide an orderly flow of traffic, there are "rules of the road" that boaters should learn and practice.

Boaters on the water encounter three situations: meeting, crossing and overtaking. The following diagrams should give a clear explanation of who has the right of way (stand-on vessel) and who must give way (give-way vessel). However, in an emergency, all ves-

sels must give way to avoid a collision. At night, a boat's navigation lights give an indication of right of way (see page 36).

The above rules cover most traffic situations, but a few other situations exist. Sailboats under sail have the right of way except when they are the overtaking vessel. Rowboats and paddle powered boats have the right of way over motorboats. All recreational craft should yield the right of way to large commercial craft (towboats, barges). Such vessels have large blind spots and will be unable to see smaller crafts in front of them.

On small or narrow bodies of water, all traffic should stay to the right of mid-channel and not "cut corners".



BUOYS

Buoys are the most common types of navigational aid, and they serve the same purpose as traffic signs on the highway. Failure to obey buoys can result in enforcement action, or worse, a loss of property or lives. When boating in unfamiliar waters, slow down and look for any regulatory or channel-marking buoys. Remember that it is possible for these buoys to drift out of position. Kentucky law prohibits from tying up to any buoy except designated mooring buoys.

UNIFORM STATE WATERWAY MARKING SYSTEM

Boats Keep Out!

Nature of danger may be placed outside crossed diamond, e.g., waterfalls, swim areas or rapids.



Danger!

Nature of danger may be indicated inside the diamond shape, e.g., rocks, reefs, dams, construction or snags.



Caution!

Controlled Areas as indicated in circle, e.g., speed limit, no fishing, no anchoring, ski-only, slow-no wake, no ski or no prop boats.



Information

Tells directions, distances, places such as food, repair, supplies and other non-regulatory messages.



Obstruction Marker

Do not pass between shore and buoy.



Mooring Buoy

White with reflective blue band. May have white light or reflector.



Channel Marker

Keep buoy on right facing upstream.



Channel Marker

Keep buoy on left facing upstream. Marker may be green or black.



REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

(301 KAR 6:040 Sect. 4)

For each person onboard a vessel, federal as well as state law requires a Type I, II, or III personal flotation device (PFD) on all boats. Boats 16 feet and over, except canoes and kayaks, must also carry one Type IV throwable PFD. Operators and passengers of personal watercraft must wear a PFD. Persons under 12 years of age must wear a PFD while in the open part of a boat that is under way.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife strongly recommends wearing PFDs while boating, especially by children and nonswimmers. In order for PFDs to be legal, the following requirements must be met:

- **Coast Guard approved:** A label with an approval number will be on the PFD. Check the label on inflatable types of PFDs. Some older models meet Coast Guard approval only when worn.
- **Serviceability:** All straps, buckles, zippers, stitching, must be intact and the fabric should not be rotted. Some PFDs contain airtight bags filled with a fibrous material. Squeeze the bags. If air escapes, destroy the PFD and replace it with a new one.
- **Size:** PFDs must fit properly. Read the label to determine size and weight restrictions.
- **Accessibility:** PFDs must be readily available for immediate use by all occupants of a vessel. It is advisable for each person to try on their PFD before departing so that they are familiar with the fastening devices and to assure it is adjusted to the person. PFDs shouldn't be stored in the plastic bags in which they were sold. This limits access and can promote rotting.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Kentucky law requires that all boats equipped with a petroleum product (gasoline, kerosene, propane, etc.) consuming device (engines, lanterns, stoves, etc.) shall have a hand portable fire extinguisher in serviceable condition and located for immediate use. The

TYPES OF PFDs

TYPE I (right) and TYPE II (far right)
These devices are designed, when worn properly, to turn a person who is unconscious and face down in the water to a vertical or slightly backward face up position.



TYPE III

These are special purpose devices that include ski vests, fishing vests and float coats. They are not designed to turn a person's face out of the water, but they do have the same buoyancy as the type I and II PFDs and are more comfortable to wear.



TYPE IV

These PFDs are designed to be thrown to persons in the water who can hold on to them until help arrives. They are not designed to be worn, and could cause drowning if worn on the back.



MARINE FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSIFICATION

Coast Guard Classes	UL Listing	Foam (gals.)	CO2 (lbs.)	Dry Chemical (lbs.)
B-I	5B	1.25	4	2
B-II	6B*	2.5	15	10
—	10B	none	10	2.5
—	20B	2.5	50	4.5 - 6

* UL rating 6B is no longer used.

best fire protection is well maintained equipment and proper safety habits.

There are fuels other than gasoline that cause fires. Many houseboats use bottled gas (propane) for stoves and other appliances. Also, many fishermen will use a lantern while fishing at night; if tipped over it can cause a fire.

BACKFIRE FLAME ARRESTERS

Internal combustion engines may backfire. To safeguard against fire, all motorboats with enclosed engines and engines originally equipped with a flame arrester, (except outboards and diesels) must have an approved

MINIMUM NUMBER OF B-1 FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Vessel/size	No Fixed Fire Extinguisher System	Fixed Fire Extinguisher System Installed
Class A	1	0
Class 1	1	0
Class 2	2	1
Class 3	3	2



Above: foam, CO2 and dry chemical fire extinguishers

carburetor backfire flame arrester system on each carburetor.

VENTILATION

Most fires on a boat are due to ignition of fuel vapors. Gasoline is heavier than air. It can collect in the bilge or engine compartment and any spark can ignite it. Therefore, Kentucky law requires boats to have adequate ventilation of areas where flammable vapors can accumulate.

Most boats are equipped with adequate ventilation systems when they come from the factory. Usually, this is a combination of active and passive systems. Active systems use electrical blowers to exhaust flammable vapors from the bilge and other areas. Passive systems are ducts and cowls that ventilate areas when the boat is moving. Almost all inboards will have an electrical blower installed in the engine compartment. Operators should run the blower for several minutes before starting the engine. If the blower is inoperable it should be repaired or replaced immediately. Many boat fires take place after refueling, so care should be taken to avoid spilling fuel in the vessel.

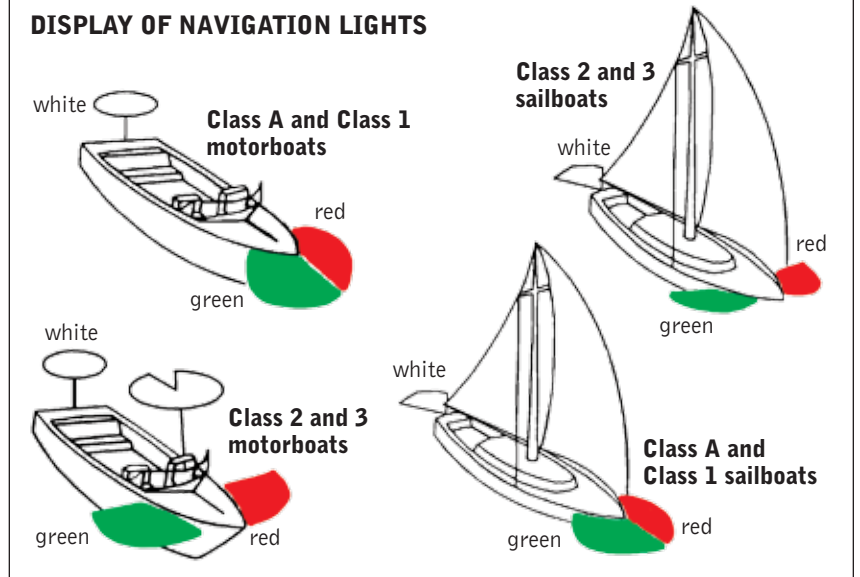
NAVIGATION LIGHTS

All vessels when underway between sunset and sunrise must display proper navigation lights. Navigation lights on boats are restricted to the colors of red, green and white.

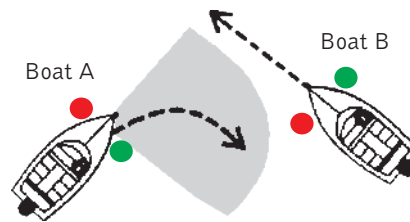
From sunset to sunrise in an area where other boats navigate, all vessels at anchor shall display a steady white light visible 360 degrees at all times. Manually propelled vessels shall carry a white light to display in sufficient time to avoid a collision.

The purpose of the red and green navigation lights at night is to show if your boat is in a meeting, crossing or overtaking situation. The red and green lights must be displayed from sunset to sunrise whenever a boat is underway. They will give some indication of the size and speed of vessels. The red and green bow lights are especially helpful in determining right of way in crossing situations. In the diagram below, boat B sees the green bow light of boat A, and has the right of way to continue on course. Boat A sees the red bow light of boat B and must stop or pass astern of boat B. In special circumstances, such

DISPLAY OF NAVIGATION LIGHTS



as towing, refer to 33 CFR 83 (Inland Navigation Rules).



SIGNALING DEVICES

Kentucky law states that all boats 16 feet in length or longer must have a hand-, mouth- or power-operated signaling device capable of producing a blast for two seconds or more and audible for one-half mile for class 1 vessels, one mile for class two vessels and one and one-half miles for class three vessels. This does not exempt vessels from any other signaling device as may be required by federal law when operating on navigable waters of this state.

Navigation law also requires the following maneuvering and warning signals:

- One long blast: Warning signal (coming out of slip)
- One short blast: Pass on my port side (left)
- Two short blasts: Pass on my starboard (right)
- Three short blasts: Engines in reverse
- Five or more blasts: Danger signal

MUFFLING DEVICES

Kentucky law requires all boats to

be equipped with effective exhaust muffling devices. Usually, boats and motors that come direct from the manufacturer are adequately muffled. However, there may be instances of high performance boats that have been modified by the owners that are not in compliance with the law. Additionally, there may be federal and/or local regulations restricting boats with an over-the-transom exhaust system.

MARINE SANITATION DEVICES (KRS 235:420)

Motorboats with marine toilets are not allowed on public waters unless the toilet is equipped with a Type I, II or III marine sanitation device (MSD.) Type I and II MSDs chemically treat sewage. Type III MSDs are holding tanks for raw sewage.

Raw sewage shall not be discharged in any public waters. Treated sewage may be discharged from a marine toilet into legal "discharge" waters. Those waters are Barkley and Kentucky lakes, Lake Cumberland and any of the major river systems. Type I and II MSDs must be sealed or locked while the vessel is on "no discharge" waters.

ACCIDENTS

(301 KAR 6:030, KRS 235.250)

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If any of the following conditions occur as the result of a boating accident, collision, etc., a Boating Accident Report must be made:

- death or disappearance of a person;
- injury to a person which requires medical attention or incapacitates that person for 24 hours or more;
- loss or damage to property (including the vessel) in an amount of \$500 or more.

The operator of a vessel is required to complete the report. If the operator is not capable of filing the report and is not the owner of the vessel, then the owner shall be required to fill out a boating accident report.

Note 1: Even if a Law Enforcement Officer fills out a boating accident report, this does not exempt the operator from filing a report.

Note 2: The reports filed by operators of vessels are confidential and are not available as public record (KRS 235.250). However, reports made by officers are available for review.

Accidents involving death or serious injury must be submitted to the Division of Law Enforcement within 48 hours. All others must be submitted within five days.

Boating accident report forms

are available from wildlife and boating law enforcement officers or by writing to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, or by calling 1-800-858-1549.

RENDERING AID

An operator of a vessel involved in a boating accident shall render aid to other persons and vessels as long as it doesn't endanger his crew, passengers or vessel. Also, the operator of any vessel involved in an accident shall give his name, address, and identification of his vessel, in writing, to any person that is injured or to the owner of any property that is damaged.

FIRST AID

This section includes suggestions that may save a life. First, boats should be equipped with a first aid kit. This kit should be able to provide treatment for burns, insect bites, cuts and abrasions.

Second, boaters should take a first aid course so they know how to treat victims with sprains, broken bones and shock.

Third, boaters should know how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in case they encounter victims of near drowning, heart attack or trauma from boating accidents. In many cases, emergency medical help is further away

on the water than on land. Interested persons should contact their local chapter of the American Red Cross for information on first aid and CPR training.

HYPOTHERMIA

Four elements cause hypothermia – cold, moisture, wind and exhaustion. Symptoms of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech, stumbling, blue skin, decreased heart and breathing rate, weak pulse and unconsciousness.

All hypothermia symptoms demand immediate attention. As soon as possible, a victim of hypothermia should be brought out of the weather. Wet clothing should be replaced with dry clothing. If the victim shows mild symptoms, get them near a fire or other heat source or put them in a warm sleeping bag. For victims with advanced symptoms of hypothermia, seek immediate medical attention. Never give alcohol to the victim.

The best cure for hypothermia is prevention. Monitor weather reports when you plan to be in the outdoors. Dress in layers and always have foul-weather gear handy.

FATIGUE

Boaters should be aware of the factors that induce fatigue while on the water. The wind, sun, engine noise and constant motion of the boat can greatly reduce a person's reaction time.



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DEFINITIONS

(301 KAR 1:201, KRS 150.010)

Fishing-related definitions not listed here are included in appropriate sections of this guide.

Angling means taking or attempting to take fish by hook and line in hand, rod in hand, jugging, set line or sport fishing trotline.

Artificial baits are lures or flies made of wood, metal, plastic, hair, feathers, preserved pork rind or similar inert materials and having no organic baits including dough bait, putty or paste type baits designed to attract fish by taste or smell.

Authorization number is the number assigned to a person in lieu of fishing or hunting license when the license is purchased over the phone or Internet.

Black bass includes largemouth, smallmouth, Kentucky (spotted) and Coosa bass.

Daylight hours begin one-half hour

before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.

Daily limit is the maximum number of a particular species or group of species a person may legally keep in a day or have in possession while fishing.

Fishing is taking or attempting to take fish in any manner, whether or not fish are in possession.

Lake means impounded waters, from the dam upstream to the first riffle on the main stem river and tributary streams or as specified in regulation.

Length means the distance from the front tip of a fish's lower jaw with mouth closed to the tip of its tail with the fish laid flat on a rule with its tail lobes squeezed together.

Organic baits are insects, minnows, fish eggs, worms, corn, cheese, cut bait or similar substances used as a lure.

Possession limit is the maximum number of unprocessed fish a person may hold after two days or more of fishing.

Regulation is a written document adopted and approved by the KDFWR

Commission and approved by legislative committees.

Release means return of the fish, in the best possible condition, immediately after removing the hook, to the water from which it was taken in a place where the fish's immediate escape shall not be prevented.

Resident is anyone who has established permanent and legal residence in Kentucky and residing here at least 30 days.

Size limit is the legal length a fish must be if it is in possession. (Fish length is measured from the tip of the closed lower jaw to the tip of the tail with fish laid flat on rule and tail lobes squeezed together.)

Slot limit means fish within a specified minimum and maximum size range must be released.

Single hook is a hook with only one point.

Tenant is any resident sharecropper or lessee who lives and works on farmland owned by his/her landlord.

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KENTUCKY HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE

JULY 2015 – FEBRUARY 2016



Photo © John Brunjes

TELECHECK:
1-800-245-4263

Fish & Wildlife:
1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov

Office hours: Monday - Friday,
8 AM - 4:30 PM ET
Gregory K. Johnson, Commissioner

Report Game Violations:
1-800-25-ALERT





Commonwealth of Kentucky
Steven L. Beshear, Governor

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ABOUT THE COVER

Cover photo of bobwhite quail by John Brunjes. Kentucky's 10-year plan to boost quail populations in the state, titled the "Road to Recovery," takes the giant approach to quail restoration. The five-

year benchmark report was released in early 2015. It shows large scale habitat work to provide quail better living conditions is paying off. Download the report from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website at fw.ky.gov/Documents/quailbenchmarkreport2015.pdf.

NEW THIS YEAR

Changes from last season are printed in **bright blue** throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes. Some of the most notable are listed below.

AREAS

Ping-Sinking Valley WMA in Pulaski County is open under statewide regulations for all hunting and trapping except for deer. For deer, the area is open for archery and crossbow only, with the exception of youth weekends when firearm hunting is allowed according to statewide regulations.

Special landowner area requirements and restrictions apply on Czar Hunting Access in Johnson, Martin and Floyd counties. See page 32 for details.

BEAR HUNTING

Regulations pertaining to bear season requirements were pending legislative approval when this guide went to press. Proposed items include an expansion of the Central and Eastern Bear Chase Areas, date changes for the archery/crossbow season and the bear quota hunt with dogs season, an increase in the modern gun harvest quota, establishment of a youth-only bear season and changes to the structure of the bear quota hunt with dogs season. Please call 1-800-858-1549 or visit fw.ky.gov for the latest information.

DEER HUNTING

Bullitt, Green, Hopkins, LaRue and Nelson counties are now Zone 1. Grayson and Ohio counties are now Zone 2. Allen County is now Zone 3.

A legal resident hunter age 65 years or older may hunt deer with a crossbow from the first Saturday in September through the third Monday in January.

Some deer regulations have changed on the following WMAs: Clay WMA (p. 32), Dewey Lake WMA (p. 32), Yatesville Lake WMA (p. 32), Higginson-Henry WMA (p. 30), Lake Barkley WMA (p. 29) and Redbird WMA (p.33).

At Veterans Memorial WMA in Scott County, a two-day quota hunt for antlerless

deer only will be held for two consecutive days starting the first Saturday in December. A participant in this quota hunt will receive one preference point for each female deer checked in, up to a maximum of four.

At Kentucky River WMA in Henry and Owen counties, a firearms quota hunt will be held for two consecutive days starting the first Saturday in November.

Marion County WMA is open under statewide regulations. The quota gun hunt has been eliminated.

At Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area in Meade County, the quota gun hunt in November has been eliminated. A quota hunt will be held on two consecutive days starting the second Saturday in December.

ELK HUNTING

The Caney Limited Entry Area (LEA) was dissolved, opening the area to elk hunters drawn for At-Large permits. The North and South At-Large Areas have been combined into one At-Large Area.

Two new LEAs are available: The Middlesboro LEA around the Middlesboro Tract of Corrigan WMA and Prestonsburg LEA around the Czar Hunting Access Area.

FALL TURKEY HUNTING

A person may use a breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotgun no smaller than .410 and no larger than 10 gauge.

No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day.

Archery and crossbow hunters may take all four wild turkeys during any open fall season for turkeys.

HIP SURVEYS

In addition to purchasing a Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit, or any license that includes it, hunters who intend to hunt migratory birds must go online or make a phone call and fill out the Harvest Information Program (HIP) questions before they are legal migratory bird hunters. Only those who plan to hunt migratory birds need to complete the HIP survey. See page 3 for details.

KNOW THE LAW! Please read this guide carefully to prevent being cited for a violation. Make sure you understand Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws before going afield. If you need help understanding a law call 1-800-858-1549, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. The top five most issued citations related to hunting and trapping are: 1) Hunting or trapping without a license 2) Hunting or trapping without landowner's permission 3) Illegal take of game 4) Taking more game than the bag limit, and 5) Failure to tag or check game.

July 2015 – February 2016



KENTUCKY HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE

Dan Crank photo

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a summary of the laws regarding hunting and trapping, intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) in its entirety and should not be used as such. The exact wording of Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws can be viewed online at fw.ky.gov. Click on Enforcement, then Regulations, then scroll down to Administrative Regulations.

Throughout the year, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also produces regulation guides for fishing and boating, spring hunting, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting (dove, wood duck, teal, woodcock, snipe and crow). These guides are available free wherever licenses are sold, and are posted online.

2015-16 KENTUCKY HUNTING SEASONS

DEER <small>pg 11</small>	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Modern Gun	Nov. 14-29, 2015 (either sex)		Nov. 14-23, 2015 (either sex)	Nov. 14-23, 2015 (antlered only)
Archery	Sept. 5, 2015 – Jan. 18, 2016 (either sex)			Sept. 5, 2015 – Jan. 18, 2016 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 17-18, Nov. 14-23 and Dec. 12-17)
Crossbow	Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2015 (either sex)			Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 – Dec. 31, 2015 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 17-18, Nov. 14-23, Dec. 12-17)
Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-18 and Dec. 12-20, 2015 (either sex)			Oct. 17-18 and Dec. 12-17, 2015 (antlered only) and Dec. 18-20, 2015 (either sex)
Youth-only Firearms	Oct. 10-11, 2015 (either sex)			
Free Youth Weekend	Dec. 26-27, 2015 (either sex)			

QUOTA ELK <small>pg 15</small>	Firearms	Archery	Crossbow
Bull (antlered)	Week 1: Oct. 3-9, 2015 Week 2: Oct. 10-16, 2015	Sept. 19 – Oct. 2, Oct. 17 – Dec. 11, Dec. 19, 2015 – Jan. 1, Jan. 9-18, 2016	Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, Oct. 17 – Dec. 11, Dec. 19 – 25, 2015
Cow (antlerless)	Week 1: Dec. 12-18, 2015 Week 2: Jan. 2-8, 2016	Oct. 17 – Dec. 11, Dec. 19, 2015 – Jan. 1 and Jan. 9-18, 2016	Oct. 17 – Dec. 11 and Dec. 19 – 25, 2015
Youth-only Quota (either sex)	All seasons as noted above		

BEAR <small>pg 17</small>	Chase-only	Archery/Crossbow	Firearms	Quota Hunt with Dogs
	Aug. 1-31, 2015 and during the Quota Hunt with Dogs	Visit fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549	Dec. 12-14, 2015	Visit fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549

FALL TURKEY <small>pg 19</small>	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 24-30 and Dec. 5-11, 2015	Sept. 5, 2015 – Jan. 18, 2016	Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 – Dec. 31, 2015

SMALL GAME <small>pg 20</small>	Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel	Aug. 15 – Nov. 13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016
Rabbit	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Jan. 31, 2016
	Western Zone	Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 10, 2016
Quail	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Jan. 31, 2016
	Western Zone	Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 10, 2016
Grouse	Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016	No trapping
Falconry	Sept. 1, 2015 – March 30, 2016	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 26, 2015 – Jan. 1, 2016	

FURBEARERS <small>pg 22</small>	Hunting	Trapping
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 1, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016, day or night (Exceptions apply)	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (Exceptions apply)	
Bobcat	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 28, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only	
River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 26, 2015 – Jan. 1, 2016	

OTHER SPECIES <small>pg 24</small>	Hunting
Crow	One-half hour before sunrise Sept. 1 – Nov. 7, 2015 and Jan. 4 – Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only
Bullfrog	Noon May 15 – Midnight Oct. 31, 2015
Groundhog	Year-round
Turtles	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)

Special rules such as hunting zones, quotas and species restrictions may apply to these season dates. Please refer to the pages listed above for complete details before you hunt.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LICENSES AND PERMITS

GENERAL HUNTER LICENSING

Persons who take or attempt to take game are considered hunters and therefore subject to licensing requirements.

Unless license exempt, hunters and trappers must obtain and carry while in the field proof that they have met the license requirements for the kind of hunting they are doing. This proof can be either a paper license/permit or a license authorization number.

Persons who can't show they are licensed properly while hunting risk being issued a citation.

Each hunter and trapper must have his or her own license or permit unless exempt. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and the hunter information portion (signature, address, eye and hair color, sex, height and weight) completed before going afield.

Lose your license or permit? Replacements can be printed at no cost from the department's website at fw.ky.gov.

LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

In some cases, a resident hunter may not be required to buy a hunting license or game permits. Here are those situations:

- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting upon their own farmlands during an open season;
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands where

Other laws apply!

Hunters exempt from buying licenses and permits are required to follow hunting season laws, bag limits, comply with the hunter orange clothing law, and follow hunter harvest recording, checking and tagging requirements. Kentucky landowners, their legal dependents and their tenants are subject to the usual license requirements anytime they hunt somewhere other than their own lands.

they reside and work.

- Kentucky residents on military leave of more than three days in this state who carry identification and papers verifying their leave status.
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces based in Kentucky engaged in sport hunting or fishing on these Kentucky National Guard properties: Hidden Valley Training Area in Powell County, and the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Muhlenberg County.

Resident and nonresident children under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except the elk hunt drawing application. Hunters eligible to participate in the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week or Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, and adults who accompany a youth hunter

but are not hunting themselves, are not required to have a license or permit during these seasons.

SHOOTING PRESERVE LICENSE

A shooting preserve license, available online only at fw.ky.gov, is valid for one license year only, and only at the shooting preserve indicated at the time of purchase.

HIP SURVEYS

In addition to purchasing a Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit, or any license that includes it, hunters who intend to hunt migratory birds must go online or make a phone call and fill out the Harvest Information Program (HIP) questions before they are legal migratory bird hunters. Only those who plan to hunt migratory birds need to complete the HIP survey.

The process takes less than five minutes. On the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife webpage at fw.ky.gov, click on the "My Profile" tab. This takes you to a page that asks for some basic information to confirm your identity. After completing the HIP questions, you will receive a confirmation number that must be written on your hunting license or Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting Permit.

Those without internet access may call the department at 1-800-858-1549 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays for assistance.

HOW TO BUY LICENSES AND PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed.

When buying a license or permit the hunter's date of birth and Social Security number must be provided.

If you have licensing questions call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-

858-1549 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time).

IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased at various locations throughout the state. A list of license agents can be viewed online at fw.ky.gov.

BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased by telephone 24 hours a day, by calling toll-free at 1-877-598-2401. All licenses and permits, except a disability license, elk drawing application and youth licenses and permits, can be purchased by telephone.

Hunters purchasing licenses and permits by phone will be charged a small convenience fee, and must pay with a Visa, Mastercard, Discover card, or an e-check. Hunters will be issued an authorization number which serves as the license or permit.

If requested, a paper license or permit (except short-term licenses) will be mailed to the hunter. The paper license must be filled out and signed by the hunter.

The authorization number and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting. Both the authorization number and paper license are valid for the license year.

ONLINE

Licenses and permits also can be purchased online at fw.ky.gov. Hunters purchasing licenses or permits online must pay with a Visa, Mastercard,

American Express or Discover card, or a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife gift certificate. Gift certificates are sold online only at fw.ky.gov.

Hunters who buy licenses or permits online will not be mailed a paper license or permit but will receive an authorization number. The authorization number or a computer printout of the license or permit and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting.

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?

The tables below provide a quick overview of current licensing requirements. See the rest of this section for

exemptions and complete residency, licensing and hunter education requirements. Licenses and permits for the

species below are not required for children under the age of 12.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
Trapping	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
Deer	Youth Hunting License + Youth Deer Permit	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License
Trapping	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$20	\$50
	Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$36	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7	\$10
	3-Year Fishing (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$55	Not available
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$30
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40
	Trout Permit	\$10	
	Annual Hunting	\$20	\$140
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$15
	7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$55
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$6	\$10
	Shooting Area License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Annual Trapping	\$20	\$130
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10	Not available
Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	\$5	Not available	
COMBOS	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$30	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing* (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, 2 youth deer permits and 2 youth turkey permits.)	\$30	Not available
DEER	Statewide Deer Permit (two deer)	\$35	\$120
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10	\$15
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Migratory Bird–Waterfowl Permit	\$15	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$25	
	Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$25	
ELK	Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Youth WMA Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Quota Bull Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$100	\$550
	Quota Cow Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$60	\$400
	Youth Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$40
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit (Nonresident available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$400
BEAR	Bear Permit	\$30	Not available
	Bear Chase Permit	\$30	Not available
	Youth Bear Chase Permit	\$10	Not available
AREAS	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15	
	Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit	\$25, or \$35 with Backcountry Camping	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3, annual: \$30, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7, annual: \$70	
OTHER	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Habitat Improvement and Public Access Donation (voluntary; available at fw.ky.gov only)	Any amount	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk drawing application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License. Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk drawing application).

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

RESIDENT LICENSING

A resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence, and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to buying a license, full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least six months, or military service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky.

NONRESIDENT LICENSING

A person who does not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident is considered a nonresident and must purchase nonresident licenses and permits. Nonresident youth hunters are subject to the same requirements as resident

youth hunters. A nonresident who owns land in Kentucky must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

YOUTH LICENSING

Resident and nonresident hunters under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except for the elk drawing application.

Resident and nonresident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted licenses and permits, which are valid for the entire license year, if they are purchased before the youth is 16.

Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkey, elk, deer or bear with a firearm must always be accompanied by

Sportsman's License - Save \$55

Available to Kentucky residents only, the Sportsman's License includes a Combination Hunting and Fishing license, Spring and Fall Turkey permits, Statewide Deer Permit, state Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit and Trout Permit. A Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com) is required for waterfowl hunting.

an adult. Persons under 12 years old, who have passed a hunter education course,

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABILITY LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing license (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management declared totally and permanently disabled by a recog-

nized authority.

- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to ssa.gov/myaccount to print the form showing your name, address, complete Social Security number and date of birth. It must state that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (address bottom left).
- **Veteran's Administration:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- If your disability is through other state or federal agencies call 1-800-858-1549.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail.

The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. Senior/Disabled Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for a replacement.

Mail or Fax

To send disability paperwork to the department:

By mail:
KDFWR Disability License
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

By FAX: (502) 564-9845

Q: For how long is a disability authorization card valid?

A: A disability authorization card is valid for three years (check the expiration date on your card). Every three years, you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions to the left) and get a new card. Those who already have a disability authorization card through the Veteran's Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

may hunt small game and furbearers without being accompanied by an adult.

The Annual Youth Hunting License authorizes the holder to hunt all small game species and migratory bird species. Hunters 15 and younger are exempt from purchasing a state Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit, and a federal

duck stamp.

A Youth Deer Permit allows the hunter to take one deer. A youth hunter may purchase a total of two Youth Deer Permits. To harvest more than two deer, a youth hunter must purchase an Additional Deer Permit.

The Youth Turkey Permit allows

the hunter to harvest one turkey. The Youth Turkey Permit may be used during any turkey season.

The resident-only Youth Sportsman's License includes the Annual Youth Hunting license, two (2) Youth Deer permits and two (2) Youth Turkey permits.

RECORDING, CHECKING, TAGGING AND TRANSPORTING

Harvested Deer, Elk, Turkey, Bear, Bobcat and Otter

The following regulations apply to all deer, elk, turkey, bear, bobcat and otter taken by hunters or trappers, including landowners and other license-exempt hunters.

HARVEST LOG

All successful hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log as soon as the animal is taken and prior to moving the carcass. Information that must be written on the harvest log includes the species and sex of animal taken, date and county where taken.

A telecheck confirmation number must be obtained by midnight on the day the animal is recovered and prior to processing the carcass. The confirmation number must be recorded on the harvest log.

A harvest log is on the back of any paper license or permit. A printable

harvest log is accessible by clicking the "Hunt" tab on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife online homepage and choosing "Hunting Home" from the dropdown menu.

License-exempt hunters, youths under 12 years of age, and those who only have a license authorization number may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or index card.

Hunters and trappers must have the completed harvest log in their possession whenever afield during the current season.

TELECHECK

1-800-CHK-GAME (1-800-245-4263)

All deer, turkey, elk, bobcat and river otters harvested must be telechecked through the toll-free, automated check-in system. Hunters may also check in the

animals they harvest online at fw.ky.gov.

Checking a harvested animal takes about five minutes. Entering false information is unlawful. Multiple animals may be telechecked during the same call.

All harvested animals must be telechecked by midnight on the day the animal is recovered.

Bears harvested during the modern gun bear season must be telechecked before leaving the check station. Hunters who harvest a bear during the archery-crossbow season or the bear quota hunt with dogs season must telecheck the bear by 8 p.m. Eastern time the day that it was harvested, and also call 1-800-858-1549 within 24 hours of harvest to arrange for a physical check of the animal and receive a tag issued by the department. Deer must be telechecked before removing the hide or head.

If the hide or head is removed from

KENTUCKY COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK

001	Adair	021	Carroll	041	Grant	061	Knox	081	Mason	101	Robertson
002	Allen	022	Carter	042	Graves	062	Larue	082	Meade	102	Rockcastle
003	Anderson	023	Casey	043	Grayson	063	Laurel	083	Menifee	103	Rowan
004	Ballard	024	Christian	044	Green	064	Lawrence	084	Mercer	104	Russell
005	Barren	025	Clark	045	Greenup	065	Lee	085	Metcalfe	105	Scott
006	Bath	026	Clay	046	Hancock	066	Leslie	086	Monroe	106	Shelby
007	Bell	027	Clinton	047	Hardin	067	Letcher	087	Montgomery	107	Simpson
008	Boone	028	Crittenden	048	Harlan	068	Lewis	088	Morgan	108	Spencer
009	Bourbon	029	Cumberland	049	Harrison	069	Lincoln	089	Muhlenberg	109	Taylor
010	Boyd	030	Daviess	050	Hart	070	Livingston	090	Nelson	110	Todd
011	Boyle	031	Edmonson	051	Henderson	071	Logan	091	Nicholas	111	Trigg
012	Bracken	032	Elliott	052	Henry	072	Lyon	092	Ohio	112	Trimble
013	Breathitt	033	Estill	053	Hickman	073	McCracken	093	Oldham	113	Union
014	Breckinridge	034	Fayette	054	Hopkins	074	McCreary	094	Owen	114	Warren
015	Bullitt	035	Fleming	055	Jackson	075	McLean	095	Owsley	115	Washington
016	Butler	036	Floyd	056	Jefferson	076	Madison	096	Pendleton	116	Wayne
017	Caldwell	037	Franklin	057	Jessamine	077	Magoffin	097	Perry	117	Webster
018	Calloway	038	Fulton	058	Johnson	078	Marion	098	Pike	118	Whitley
019	Campbell	039	Gallatin	059	Kenton	079	Marshall	099	Powell	119	Wolfe
020	Carlisle	040	Garrard	060	Knott	080	Martin	100	Pulaski	120	Woodford

the carcass of a harvested elk before the animal is telechecked, the hunter must demonstrate proof of the sex of the elk. See page 17 for details.

Telecheck is available 24 hours a day while hunting seasons are open. Listen to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch tone phone.

Callers will be asked their Social Security number and code for the county in which the animal was taken. All youth hunters must use their Social Security number when telechecking an animal.

Callers must also indicate the animal's species and sex. Deer hunters who take button bucks should check the deer as "male" and then choose "no visible antler" when prompted.

Next, callers will be asked about the type of equipment they used to harvest the animal, whether the land was private or public, and the type of license they used. License choices may include: Statewide license, Senior/Disabled license, Landowner, Deer Control Tag, Trapping license, Elk permit or Out-of-

Q: Due to a cell phone dropped call, a hunter loses a confirmation number. Should the animal be checked in again?

A: Try again until you get the confirmation number, and then contact the department at 1-800-858-1549 the next business day to report the incident.

Zone Elk permit.

Youths under 12, youths who check deer during the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, or license exempt military personnel should select "Statewide license."

Once the harvest information has been entered correctly, the caller will be asked to hold for several seconds while the system submits the survey information. The hunter then will be given a confirmation number which is proof that the harvested animal was legally reported. This number must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

CARCASS TAG

A hunter shall attach a handmade tag to the carcass of any harvested deer, elk, turkey, bear, bobcat, or otter if transferring possession of the harvested animal to another person.

For example, a carcass tag is required if the hunter gives the animal to another person, drops it off to be processed, or takes the head and cape to a taxidermist.

A harvested animal in a hunter's possession is assumed to be theirs, unless the carcass tag states otherwise.

The carcass tag must include the hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

Hunters who harvest bears during the modern gun bear season must attach a department-issued carcass tag before leaving the check station. Hunters who harvest a bear during the archery-crossbow season must attach a department-

issued carcass tag after having the bear inspected by department personnel.

CITES TAG

A Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag, issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, must be attached to the raw fur, pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat or river otter taken in Kentucky, if the hunter or trapper intends to sell or export internationally.

To request a CITES tag, log on to "My Profile" from the department's homepage at fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) and provide the animal's telecheck confirmation number.

CITES tags must immediately be attached to the animal or pelt per the instructions included with the mailed tag and remain with the pelt until it is processed. Possession of an unused bobcat or otter CITES tag is prohibited.

TRANSPORTING HARVESTED ANIMALS

Hunters bringing any deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, into Kentucky shall have proof that the animal was legally harvested elsewhere and shall do so in compliance with the carcass importation law.

An unchecked animal taken in Kentucky may not be transported out of Kentucky.

Furs and hides may only be sold to a licensed fur buyer, fur processor or taxidermist.

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to shoot, hunt, trap, fish or for other wildlife-related recreational purposes without the oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant, or person who has authority to grant permission.

Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution.

Railroad tracks and rights-of-way are privately-owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

Landowners are under no obliga-

tion to allow hunters to retrieve game or hunting dogs from their property.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1975 must carry a valid hunter education card or hunter education exemption permit while hunting. Persons not required to have licenses or permits are exempt from hunter education certification.

Hunter education courses are held throughout the state. Effective March 1, 2014, pre-registration must be done online at fw.ky.gov in order to receive the hunter education card.

More information about the registration process is available on the website or by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Children must be at least 9 years old to take the hunter education course. People who complete the course are issued an orange certification card. Hunter education cards issued by other states are valid in Kentucky.

Children younger than 12 years old are exempt from hunter education certification, but must be accompanied by an adult who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult must be in a position to take immediate control of the

bow or firearm at all times while hunting. One adult cannot accompany more than two hunters under 12 years old at the same time.

APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may buy a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit online at fw.ky.gov.

This apprentice hunting opportunity allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for up to one year (from date of purchase) without a hunter education card. The permit requires its holder to hunt with a licensed, adult hunter (at least 18 years old) who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exempted hunter is an adult.

After the hunter education exemption permit expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course.

The temporary hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky. It is not accepted at Blue Grass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Resident landowners, spouses and dependent children, tenants, their spouses and their dependent children are only hunter education exempt on property they own, or the property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

REPLACEMENT HUNTER EDUCATION CARDS

Free replacement hunter education cards can be printed online at fw.ky.gov. On the homepage, click on the "Education" tab and select "Hunter Education" from the drop down menu.

HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING LAW

All hunters, and persons accompanying them, must wear outer garments of hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest when hunting during daylight hours for any species during the modern gun, muzzle-loader and youth firearm deer seasons, or a firearm elk or firearm bear season.

Waterfowl and dove hunters are exempt from this requirement.

Hunter orange garments can be of mesh type material, as long as openings in the mesh weave are no wider than one-quarter inch by any measurement. Garments may display a small portion of another color.

The following are common examples of violations related to hunter orange clothing:

- Wearing camouflage-patterned hunter orange garments without additional solid hunter orange clothing on the head, back and chest.
- Wearing hunter orange clothing while walking to a stand and taking it off when you get there.
- Hunting squirrel, rabbit or quail when and where a firearm deer or elk season is also open without wearing hunter orange clothing.

Hunters using archery equipment during deer firearms seasons must wear hunter orange clothing.

Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during a firearms season on a state owned or managed WMA where firearms hunting for deer, elk or bear is prohibited.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for all species listed in this guide, except raccoons, opossums and frogs, are during daylight hours only – 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field or stands before and after shooting hours.

Raccoons and opossums may be taken day or night, except during modern gun deer season when raccoon and opossum hunting is permitted only at night.

Exceptions also apply for coyotes. See the Furbearer Hunting & Trapping section.

HUNTING METHOD EXEMPTIONS

The department grants exemptions to hunters with certain physical disabilities to hunt with a crossbow during archery-only seasons, or to use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform. However, persons with qualifying physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician certifying why the exemption is necessary.

Forms are available online or by calling the department. A completed exemption form serves as the hunter's

exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department. Persons who obtain an exemption are still required to have the appropriate hunting license and permits, and must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

PROHIBITED HUNTING METHODS

- No person shall discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow or other similar device, upon, over, or across any public roadway. Hunting is prohibited in highway or interstate medians and rights of way.
- No person shall take or attempt to take any wildlife, protected or unprotected, from an automobile, or other vehicle, except as prescribed by regulation. Hunting from boats is permitted for small game and furbearers.
- A person shall not pursue, chase or take a deer, elk or turkey (during the spring turkey season) with the aid of dogs; while on horseback; or when a deer, elk or bear is swimming. Dogs may be used to locate and flush turkeys during the fall turkey seasons only.
- It is illegal to feed bears directly or indirectly for any reason.
- No person shall take wildlife with the aid of fire, explosives, smoke or gas.
- Baiting is prohibited on all WMAs, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson National Forest, Land Between The Lakes and state parks open to hunting.
- Deer and elk hunters shall not use electronic decoys or calls.
- No person shall take a turkey when the turkey is roosting. A roost is the place, typically a tree, where a turkey spends the night.
- A person hunting wild turkeys shall not use live turkeys as decoys.
- Wild turkey or bears shall not be hunted by the aid of bait, nor shall areas be hunted where bait is present. This includes private lands baited for deer. An area is considered baited for 30 days after all bait has been removed. A baited area is any place where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys or bears have been placed. An area where grains or other feeds exist as the result of legitimate agricultural practices, or as the result of growing or manipulating a crop for wildlife management is legal for hunting.

CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but any firearms carried concealed must be done so pursuant to KRS 527.020.

CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. The prohibition on handguns applies to those convicted after Jan. 1, 1975. The prohibition on other firearms applies to those convicted after July 15, 1994. See KRS 527.040 for more details.

SPOTLIGHTING

No person may deliberately cast the rays of a spotlight or other artificial light into any field, pasture, woodlands or forest, whether public or private, where wildlife or domestic livestock may reasonably be expected to be located. Shining artificial lights into private residences or other structures also is prohibited.

This does not apply to: headlights of vehicles engaged in a normal course of travel; lights being used in legitimate agricultural activities; anyone involved in activities legitimate to his or her business or occupation; circumstances including lawful hunting activities; or any landowner, his or her immediate family, or any paid employee while working on his or her land at that time.

No person shall take wildlife, except raccoons, opossums, frogs and fishes, using lights or other means designed to blind wildlife or make wildlife visible at night. Exceptions also apply for coyotes. See the Furbearer Hunting & Trapping section.

GAME CALLING DEVICES and RESTRICTIONS

- Hand or mouth-operated calls may be used in hunting all species.
- A hunter may use electronic calls or attracting devices for furbearers during the furbearer season.
- Mechanical or electronic calls may be used to take crows during crow season.
- Deer, turkey and elk hunters shall not use or possess electronic calling devices.

TRANSPORTATION and HOLDING OF LIVE NATIVE WILDLIFE

A person may not take or possess

live wildlife without first obtaining a permit when prescribed by regulation.

A person shall not hold live native wildlife in captivity that was not legally taken or possessed. A person shall not buy or sell, offer to buy or sell, trade, or barter native wildlife or parts thereof obtained from the wild. Wildlife acquired prior to obtaining the proper permits may be confiscated and the holder fined.

Orphaned wildlife may only be possessed by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Persons transporting live deer or other types of cervids (members of the deer family) without proper documentation or permits, or holding live deer captive in unpermitted facilities or pens, are subject to fines and may have their animals confiscated or destroyed.

DOG TRAINING and HUNTING WITH DOGS

Hunters may run or train dogs for rabbits, foxes, coyotes, raccoons and opossums year-round but game may only be harvested during an open hunting season.

Some WMAs have special restrictions on using dogs, so check ahead of time. All members of the party must have a valid hunting license (unless license-exempt) to pursue rabbits or furbearers, even when training dogs without taking game.

Dogs may not be used to chase, molest or hunt deer and elk. Dogs may

be used to chase or hunt bears if a legal season is open.

Dogs are permitted for locating and flushing turkeys during the fall turkey season only, and dogs on leash are permitted for tracking and locating wounded deer, elk and bear. Except during the hunting season, raccoon and opossum hunters shall not use any device to force a raccoon or opossum from trees or dens. Raccoon squallers may be used year-round.

BOBWHITE SHOOT-TO-TRAIN SEASON

For the purpose of bird dog training on private lands only, pen-reared bobwhite quail may be harvested August 15 through May 15 (excluding bobwhite hunting season), provided that prior to shooting a person must:

- Possess a valid hunting license, or be license-exempt
- Submit a completed application to the department
- Possess proof of the sale/ownership of the birds
- Possess a captive wildlife permit for pen-reared bobwhite if more than 100 birds are in possession, or if kept for more than 10 days
- Make sure that the training area is free of wild quail
- Band pen-reared birds before release with No. 7 leg bands or department-supplied bands.



Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry (KHFH) is a non-profit, volunteer organization that encourages hunters to harvest and donate deer each season for distribution to homeless shelters and food banks throughout the state.

Hunters in Zone 1 counties have a unique opportunity to help. They may take an unlimited number of antlerless deer so long as they have purchased the appropriate additional deer permits.

You can also donate \$2 when renewing your car or truck's registration and help pay the cost of turning venison into a nutritious meal for the less fortunate in communities across Kentucky.

Kentucky Whitetail Access

is a new KHFH program that pairs landowners who need assistance controlling depredating deer with hunters who can help. Visit the KHFH website for more information about this program and application forms.

Detailed instructions about how to donate your deer and a list of participating processors are available online at

kyhuntersforthehungry.info

MIGRATORY BIRD and WATERFOWL HUNTING

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) governs migratory bird and waterfowl hunting.

Season dates for these species are

finalized by the USFWS too late to be included in this guide.

The Kentucky dove season traditionally opens at 11 a.m. on Sept. 1 and runs through late October.

Hunters should consult the early

migratory bird and waterfowl hunting guides for complete details, or check Kentucky Fish and Wildlife’s website at fw.ky.gov before the season is expected to open.

DEER HUNTING

DEER HUNTING ZONES & SEASONS



DEER	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Modern Gun	Nov. 14-29, 2015 (either sex)	Nov. 14-23, 2015 (either sex)	Nov. 14-23, 2015 (either sex)	Nov. 14-23, 2015 (antlered only)
Archery	Sept. 5, 2015 – Jan. 18, 2016 (either sex)			Sept. 5, 2015 – Jan. 18, 2016 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 17-18, Nov. 14-23 and Dec. 12-17)
Crossbow	Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2015 (either sex)			Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 – Dec. 31, 2015 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 17-18, Nov. 14-23, Dec. 12-17)
Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-18 and Dec. 12-20, 2015 (either sex)			Oct. 17-18 and Dec. 12-17, 2015 (antlered only) and Dec. 18-20, 2015 (either sex)
Youth-only Firearms	Oct. 10-11, 2015 (either sex)			
Free Youth Weekend	Dec. 26-27, 2015 (either sex)			

Note: During the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, hunters ages 15 and under may hunt deer with a firearm without a license or deer permit, but must be accompanied by an adult.

BAG LIMITS

Bag limits and harvest restrictions apply to all hunters. There is no daily bag limit on deer.

A person may take no more than one (1) deer with visible antlers (excluding button bucks) in Kentucky on pri-

vate land.

On some public hunting areas, including Land Between The Lakes, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox Military Reservations and Blue Grass Army Depot, a bonus antlered deer may be taken, as

determined by the governing agency for each area.

In Zone 1 counties, there is no season limit on antlerless deer.

In Zone 2, 3 and 4 counties, the combined season limit is four (4) per hunter. Hunters may choose to take up

to one (1) antlered deer and three (3) antlerless deer, or take up to four (4) antlerless deer total.

In summary, hunters may take a total of four deer statewide, except in Zone 1, where hunters may take an unlimited number of antlerless deer using Additional Deer Permits.

In Zone 3 a hunter may take no more than two (2) deer with a firearm.

In Zone 4, an adult hunter may take no more than two (2) deer with a firearm (one with a modern firearm and one with a muzzleloader, or both with a muzzleloader). In Zone 4 antlerless deer may only be taken with a firearm by a youth during Youth Season or Free Youth Weekend, or by any person hunting with a muzzleloader during the final three days of the December muzzleloader season.

TYPES OF DEER PERMITS

STATEWIDE DEER PERMIT

All deer hunters, unless license exempt, must first buy and carry proof of purchasing an Annual Hunting license and a Statewide Deer Permit while deer hunting. The permit allows a hunter to take two deer: one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless. It does not matter if the antlered or antlerless deer is taken first.

ADDITIONAL DEER PERMIT

To take more than two deer, an Ad-

Carry proof

Hunters who buy their license or permit by phone or internet must carry while hunting: a picture ID and proof of purchase (an authorization number, paper license or computer print out). Paper licenses/permits must be signed and all information completed before hunting.

ditional Deer Permit must be purchased.

The Additional Deer Permit is valid for deer of either sex. The Additional Deer Permit allows a hunter to take up to two additional deer beyond those allowed by the statewide permit in the following combinations: one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless. Regardless of what permit a deer hunter carries, the statewide season limit for antlered deer is one per hunter.

The Additional Deer Permit is not valid unless the hunter has first purchased an annual hunting license and Statewide Deer Permit and is able to show proof of that in the field. A Statewide or Additional Deer Permit may be used on public and private land, and during some quota hunts.

Maps online

See statewide harvest maps, hunting zones and more at fw.ky.gov. Click the "Maps" tab and choose "Game Maps."

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

If you hunt deer in Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia or any other CWD-infected state you may not bring a deer back into Kentucky unless the brain and spinal column have been removed first.

Allowed parts from CWD-infected states and provinces include: quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, boned-out meat, antlers, antlers attached to a clean skull plate, a clean skull, clean teeth, hides and finished taxidermy products.

CWD has not been detected in Kentucky.

CWD has been found in 23 states and 2 Canadian provinces: Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Up-to-date news regarding CWD can be found online at cwd-info.org.

HUNTING EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

MODERN GUN SEASON

During modern gun deer season, hunters may hunt with modern firearms, muzzleloaders, and archery and crossbow equipment, and must follow season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements.

All hunters, including archery and crossbow hunters, and persons accompanying hunters, must wear hunter orange clothing during modern gun season.

Persons ages 15 and under hunting deer with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult who shall be in a po-

sition to take immediate control of the youth's firearm at all times.

ARCHERY SEASON

Hunters using archery equipment during a deer firearms season must follow all firearms season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements, and must wear hunter orange clothing.

The only exception is on state owned or managed WMAs where firearms hunting for deer or elk is prohibited.

CROSSBOW SEASON

Hunters using crossbows during a deer firearms season must follow all firearms season restrictions, zone guidelines and other hunting requirements, and must wear hunter orange clothing.

The only exception is on state owned or managed WMAs where firearms hunting for deer or elk is prohibited.

A legal resident hunter age 65 years or older may hunt deer with a crossbow from the first Saturday in September through the third Monday in January.

MUZZLELOADER SEASON

Muzzleloaders, archery and crossbow equipment may be used during this season.

All hunters must comply with the hunter orange clothing law.

Youths ages 15 and under hunting deer with a muzzleloader must be accompanied by an adult who shall remain able and in a position to take immediate control of the youth's muzzleloader at all times.

TREE STANDS

Construction and use of tree stands on private lands is regulated by land-owners.

LEGAL DEER HUNTING EQUIPMENT

FIREARMS EQUIPMENT

- Any caliber centerfire rifle or centerfire handgun.
- Rifle or handgun magazines may not be capable of holding more than 10 rounds.
- Rifles or handguns may not be fully-automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull).
- Full metal jacketed or tracer bullet ammunition is prohibited.
- Shotguns, no larger than 10-gauge, shooting slug ammunition only (includes sabotated bullets).
- Muzzleloading rifles, handguns, or shotguns shooting round balls, conical bullets, or sabotated bullets.

ARCHERY EQUIPMENT

- Longbows, recurves and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Wood, carbon or metal arrows, but arrows may not be chemically-treated.
- Fixed blade or mechanical broadheads at least 7/8" wide (when blades extended), but broadheads may not be barbed, or chemically-treated.

CROSSBOW EQUIPMENT

- Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Wood, carbon or metal arrows (bolts), but arrows (bolts) may not be chemically treated.

- Fixed blade or mechanical broadheads at least 7/8" (when blades extended), but broadheads may not be barbed, or chemically treated.

MUZZLELOADING EQUIPMENT

- Muzzleloading rifles or handguns of any caliber, with flint or percussion ignition (including in-lines), shooting round balls, conical bullets or sabotated bullets.
- Muzzleloading firearms equipped with open sights or telescopic sights (scopes).
- Muzzleloading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge, shooting round balls, conical bullets or sabotated bullets.

YOUTH DEER HUNTING

YOUTH DEER HUNTING

Youths may hunt deer during any open season, including two special deer seasons for resident and non-resident hunters who have not reached their 16th birthday. Any legal deer hunting equip-

ment is permissible. All other deer season regulations apply.

Adults accompanying youth deer hunters during either of these hunts may not use firearms to take deer.

Adults accompanying youth hunters are not required to possess a hunting license or deer permit if the adult is not deer hunting, but by law, the hunter and the accompanying adults must wear hunter orange clothing.

YOUTH-ONLY FIREARMS SEASON/ FREE YOUTH DEER HUNTING WEEKEND

The first special youth deer season is on the second weekend of October. Youth hunters may take deer with firearms, or any other legal method, statewide. During the October youth-only firearms season, the appropriate hunting license and deer permits are required for hunters ages 12-15. Youth hunters under age 12 are not required to have a hunting

license or deer permit.

On the first weekend following Christmas, resident and nonresident youth 15 years of age and under, who are accompanied by an adult, are eligible to participate in the Free Youth Weekend. Youth hunters may hunt deer with firearms, or any other legal method, statewide without a hunting license or deer permit.

All bag limits, zone restrictions and deer hunting requirements apply during the special youth deer seasons.

Hunter orange required!

Hunters and people accompanying them must wear solid, unbroken hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest when hunting for any species during the modern gun, muzzleloader and youth firearm deer seasons, or a firearm elk or firearm bear season. However, hunter orange is not required when hunting waterfowl or doves during a gun deer, elk or bear season, or when hunting furbearers at night during a legal furbearer season.

Q: Can a hunter take a deer for someone else?

A: No. Hunters must claim any deer they take as their own. They must use their own license/permit and harvest log, and telecheck the deer using their own Social Security number.

KENTUCKY'S TROPHY BUCKS

BOONE & CROCKETT TROPHY DEER 2014 SEASON - TYPICAL			
SCORE	Hunter	County	Method
182 0/8	Cody L. McLean	Wayne	Modern gun
180 6/8	Harold Dowell	Breckinridge	Archery
173 6/8	Billy L. Medlin	Whitley	Modern gun
173 1/8	Anthony Himes	Garrard	Modern gun
172 5/8	John Mark Jones	Pulaski	Modern gun
171 6/8	Gerald Bush	Clay	Modern gun
170 4/8	James R. Irvine	Pulaski	Archery
168 5/8	James M. Dempsey, Jr.	Franklin	Modern gun
167 0/8	Kenneth Merida	Knox	Modern gun
166 0/8	Anthony Scott	Pike	Modern gun
165 4/8	Kent Robinson	Lewis	Muzzleloader
163 4/8	Mark Shanklin	Todd	Archery
163 3/8	Jeremy VanMeter	Grayson	Archery
163 0/8	Clint L. Blevins	Pulaski	Modern gun
163 0/8	Daniel Hayden	Ohio	Archery
162 7/8	Jack Simpson	Woodford	Modern gun
162 2/8	Chad Spiering	Owen	Modern gun
161 0/8	Megan K. Dohn	LaRue	Modern gun
160 7/8	Alvin Powell	Lincoln	Found
160 6/8	Brett Powell	McLean	Archery
160 5/8	Debbie Edwards	Owen	Modern gun
160 4/8	Tracy R. Groce	Pulaski	Modern gun
160 2/8	Robert Deaton	Lee	Modern gun

BOONE & CROCKETT TROPHY DEER 2014 SEASON - NON-TYPICAL			
SCORE	Hunter	County	Method
250 2/8	David Howard	Todd	Archery
221 1/8	Justin P. Mooney	Webster	Archery
206 6/8	Jeremy Hendrick	Warren	Modern gun
202 4/8	Johnny Marcum	Estill	Modern gun
198 5/8	Cody L. Likins	Nicholas	Archery
196 2/8	Steven Lynn	Lincoln	Modern gun
192 2/8	Brandon Rhea	Union	Modern gun
190 3/8	Robert A. Johnson	Butler	Modern gun
189 5/8	Lucas Casada	Pulaski	Modern gun
189 5/8	Shane Smiddy	Marshall	Modern gun
187 6/8	Garry D. Neal	Wayne	Modern gun
186 0/8	Charles E. Jett	Bracken	Archery
185 1/8	Michael Weinert	Pulaski	Modern gun



Mary McLean photo

182 0/8
Cody McLean
 Wayne County
 Typical, Modern gun

HOW TO GET ON NEXT YEAR'S TROPHY LIST

To be eligible for next year's trophy list a hunter must take a white-tailed deer in Kentucky this season that officially net scores 160 or higher typical, or net scores 185 or higher non-typical, as determined by the Boone & Crockett scoring system.

No later than May 1, send the completed and signed score sheet with a photo to Kentucky Hunting & Trapping Guide, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. Include the county in which the deer was taken, and the equipment used to harvest the deer. Please send a copy as score sheets and photos will not be returned. Emailed submissions to info.center@ky.gov also will be accepted.

To get a list of official Boone & Crockett Club scorers in Kentucky visit: www.boone-crockett.org.

This list includes deer scored and reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by May 1. It is possible that unreported bucks taken last year in Kentucky may have scored 160 typical or 185 non-typical or higher.

ELK HUNTING

DATES, RESTRICTIONS AND HOW TO APPLY

QUOTA ELK	Firearms	Archery	Crossbow
Bull (antlered)	Week 1: Oct. 3-9, 2015 Week 2: Oct. 10-16, 2015	Sept. 19 – Oct. 2, Oct. 17 – Dec. 11, Dec. 19, 2015 – Jan. 1, Jan. 9-18, 2016	Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, Oct. 17 – Dec. 11, Dec. 19 – 25, 2015
Cow (antlerless)	Week 1: Dec. 12-18, 2015 Week 2: Jan. 2-8, 2016	Oct. 17 – Dec. 11, Dec. 19, 2015 – Jan. 1 and Jan. 9-18, 2016	Oct. 17 – Dec. 11 and Dec. 19 – 25, 2015
Youth-only Quota (either sex)	All seasons as noted above		

Note: Hunters must follow deer season regulations and use only the legal elk hunting equipment described on this page to take elk from any county not included in the 16-county elk zone (out-of-zone), and must have an Out-of-Zone Elk Permit.

HOW THE QUOTA HUNTS WORK

- Applications go on sale January 1 for the upcoming season's Kentucky elk quota hunts. Hunters must buy their elk quota hunt applications before midnight Eastern time on April 30.
- Elk quota hunt applications can only be purchased online at fw.ky.gov. A person who does not have access to the department's website to apply for any quota hunt may contact the department toll free at 1-800-858-1549 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) for assistance.
- Residents and non-residents are eligible to apply for each of the four permit types (bull or cow firearms, bull or cow archery/crossbow) but can only be drawn for one.
- Each application costs \$10. Only individuals may purchase elk applications, not a party of hunters together.
- Hunters 15 years of age and under may apply for a youth-only quota hunt during the same application period as for the regular elk quota hunt drawing.
- Applicants for the youth-only hunt may also purchase elk applications for the regular elk quota hunts. A youth may not be drawn for the youth-only quota hunt and the regular quota hunt for elk in the same year, and if drawn for the youth-only hunt, will be permanently blocked from applying for the youth-only hunt again.
- A random computer drawing is held in May to select the drawn hunters. Applicants may check to see if they were drawn on fw.ky.gov.
- It is the hunter's responsibility to find a place to hunt in the area they choose or are assigned to hunt. Hunters must get landowner permission to hunt on private land.
- There is no limit to the number of assistants an elk hunter may take into the field, but only the permit holder is allowed to hunt.
- For the 2015-16 elk season, Fishtrap Lake WMA in the At-Large Area is designated as an Active Restoration Area and is off limits to elk hunting.
- Quota elk permits must be purchased from the department's website (fw.ky.gov) prior to hunting.
- Hunters drawn for a quota elk permit are required to buy an elk quota hunt permit in addition to an annual hunting license.
- Hunters awarded a bull elk permit will be blocked for three years from applying

LEGAL ELK HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- A modern rifle of .270 caliber or larger with a magazine capable of holding no more than 10 rounds.
- A muzzleloading rifle of .50 caliber or larger.
- A muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotgun no smaller than 20-gauge, firing a single projectile (slug, round ball, conical bullet or sabot bullet) only.
- A handgun loaded with centerfire cartridges at least 1.285 inches in length, firing bullets of .270 caliber or larger designed to expand upon impact.
- Firearms may not be fully-automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull).
- Full metal jacketed or tracer bullet ammunition is prohibited.
- Crossbows or archery equipment (long bows, recurves or compound bow) loaded with a fixed blade or mechanical broadheads at least 7/8" wide (when blades extended), but broadheads may not be barbed, or chemically treated. Crossbows must have a working safety. A person drawn for an archery or crossbow permit may hunt with a crossbow during all archery and crossbow seasons if they are 15 years old or younger, 65 years of age or older or has a crossbow hunting method exemption permit at the time of the hunt.

WHERE TO HUNT ELK



Maps online
 See statewide harvest maps, hunting zones and more at fw.ky.gov. Click the "Maps" tab and choose "Game Maps."

ing for another bull elk permit.

QUOTA HUNTS WITHIN THE ELK ZONE

The elk zone includes the following 16 counties: Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Perry, Pike and Whitley. Inside this zone, elk may only be taken by hunters drawn for a quota hunt as previously described. All elk hunters must display a department-issued hang tag in their vehicles while hunting.

BAITING

Elk may not be hunted over bait on public or private lands within the elk zone. However, it is legal to hunt elk over bait outside the elk zone.

CALLING

A person shall not mimic the sound of an elk on public land open to elk hunting from Sept. 1 until the opening of the elk archery season.

SHOOTING HOURS

Elk may only be hunted during daylight hours, from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

BAG LIMIT/HUNTER ORANGE

The season bag limit on elk is one per hunter per season, regardless of permit type. Hunters may not take an elk during a quota elk hunt and also take an elk out-of-zone during the same

season. Elk hunters and those who accompany them, or any other person hunting public or private lands in the elk zone during firearm elk seasons, must comply with the hunter orange clothing law.

KENTUCKY'S TROPHY BULLS

SCORE	Hunter	County	Method	Year
*372 6/8	Terrell Royalty	Knott	Modern gun	2009
371 0/8	Greg Neff	Bell	Modern gun	2007
*367 7/8	Kelvin Jackson	Harlan	Modern gun	2008
367 0/8	Bill Auxier	Knott	Modern gun	2007
*365 5/8	Brent Jones	Knott	Modern gun	2013
*361 5/8	Ryan Wilson	Martin	Archery	2014
361 4/8	Franklin Scott	Knott	Modern gun	2006
360 7/8	Joe Broughton	Pike	Archery	2014
*357 0/8	Bruce Brantley	Perry	Crossbow	2011
*356 6/8	Chris Godby	Knott	Modern gun	2009

* Non-typical

This list includes the 10 largest bull elk scored and reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. The department is compiling a list of the top 100 elk taken in Kentucky. Please send copies of official (signed) score sheets to: Kentucky Trophy Elk List, KDFWR, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Ky 40601. Emailed submissions to info.center@ky.gov also will be accepted.

ELK HUNTING OUTSIDE THE ELK ZONE

Elk may be taken from any county outside the zone by hunters who possess an annual Kentucky hunting license and an Out-of-Zone Elk Permit. These hunters must follow deer season regulations and use only the legal elk hunting equipment outlined on page 15, but are not required to possess a Statewide Deer Permit.

CHECKING and TAGGING

All elk must be telechecked. Hunters must call 1-800-245-4263 and report the harvest. (See the General Information section for details.)

Once an elk is harvested, a hunter may remove the head of the animal to facilitate its removal from the field prior to

the elk being telechecked. It is still necessary to fill out the harvest log immediately after harvest and telecheck the animal before midnight on the day the elk is harvested or recovered. If the hide or head of the elk is removed in the field – to quarter the animal, for example – it is now necessary to demonstrate proof of sex by retaining the head or keeping the genitalia attached to the carcass.

A carcass tag is required if a harvested elk leaves the hunter's possession for any reason.

VOUCHER COOPERATOR ELK PERMIT PROGRAM

A recently developed access program by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has creat-

ed additional elk hunting opportunity for drawn elk hunters.

The Voucher Cooperator Elk Permit Program links people who own or lease elk hunting land with hunters who have drawn an elk tag. Hunter access is accomplished by offering landowners/lessees an elk tag when they accumulate 20 points (harvested bull = 2 points, harvested cow = 1 point). Hunters will sign up to hunt voucher properties on a first come, first served basis through an online system after the area drawing is complete.

Interested landowners and lessees may contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549 to learn more about the Voucher Cooperator Elk Permit Program.

BEAR HUNTING

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

BEAR	Chase-only	Archery/Crossbow	Firearms	Quota Hunt with Dogs
	Aug. 1-31, 2015 and during the Quota Hunt with Dogs	Visit fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549	Dec. 12-14, 2015	Visit fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549

Regulations pertaining to bear season requirements were pending legislative approval when this guide went to press. Proposed items include an expansion of the Central and Eastern Bear Chase Areas, date changes for the archery/crossbow season and bear quota hunt with dogs season, an increase in the modern gun harvest quota, establishment of a youth-only bear season and changes to the structure of the bear quota hunt with dogs season. Please call 1-800-858-1549 or visit fw.ky.gov for the latest information.

CHASE-ONLY SEASON WITH DOGS

Unless license exempt, participants must purchase a Bear Chase Permit or Junior Bear Chase Permit. Bear Chase Permits may be purchased online at fw.ky.gov from July 1 - **Dec. 31**.

Bears may be chased with dogs only within the Eastern, Central, and Western Bear Chase Areas (see map). Bears shall only be chased during legal daylight hours. Hunters shall not chase bears from an area where bait is present or has been present for 30 days. Individual chase groups shall include no more than five (5) people and eight (8) dogs, except a chase party may total seven (7)

people if two (2) additional youths accompany the party.

ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON

Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase a Bear Permit, in addition to an Annual Hunting License. Bear Permits are available for purchase over-the-counter, by phone (1-877-598-2401), or online at fw.ky.gov.

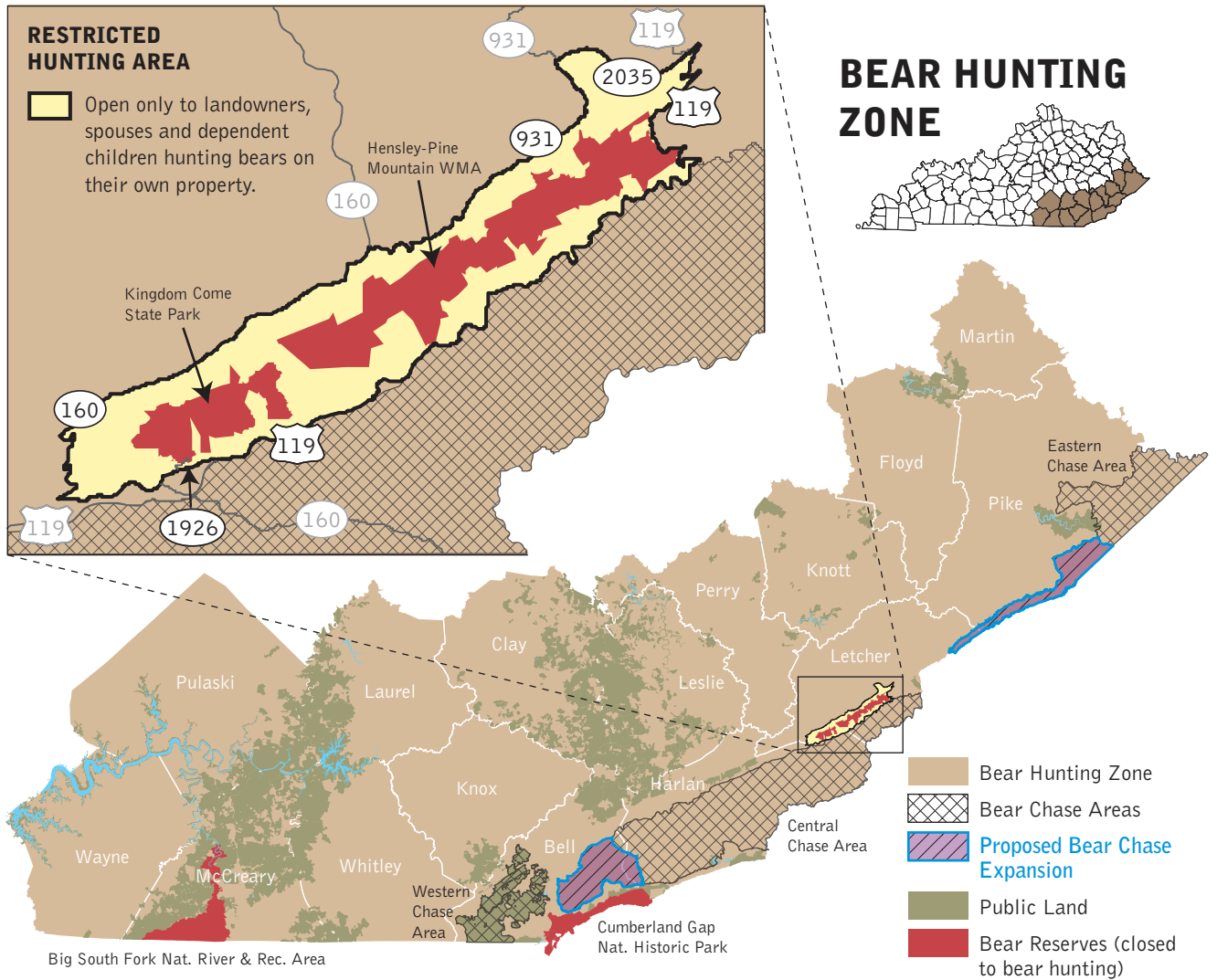
The archery/crossbow season harvest quota is 10 bears or five (5) female bears, whichever is reached first. If either limit is reached, the season will close 30 minutes after sunset that day. Successful hunters must telecheck their bear by 8 p.m. Eastern time and also call

1-800-858-1549 within 24 hours of harvest to arrange for a physical check of the animal and receive a tag issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Bears physically checked during the archery/crossbow season must include a carcass or an intact hide that contains the skull and proof of sex.

Hunters must call 1-800-858-1549 after 9 p.m. each day of the season to check if the bear quota has been reached. If the quota has not been reached, the season will continue through next day.

MODERN GUN SEASON

Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase a Bear Permit, in addi-



PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS Only portions of these public hunting areas within the bear zone are open to bear hunting.

Asher Hunting Access Area, Beaver Creek WMA, Boone Forestlands WMA, Buck Creek WMA, Buckhorn Lake WMA, Burchell-Beech Creek WMA, Cane Creek WMA, Carr Creek Lake WMA, Corrigan WMA, Cranks Creek WMA, **Czar Hunting Access Area**, Daniel Boone National Forest, Dewey Lake WMA, Elk Forest WMA, Fishtrap Lake WMA, Fortner-Davis WMA, Jefferson National Forest, Kentenia State Forest, Kentucky Fuel Corporation WMA, Kentucky Ridge Forest WMA, Kentucky Ridge State Forest, Lake Cumberland WMA, Martins Fork Lake WMA, Martins Fork WMA & State Natural Area, Paul Van Booven WMA, **Ping-Sinking Valley WMA**, Redbird WMA, Robinson Forest WMA, Shillalah Creek WMA, Stone Mountain WMA & State Natural Area and Wells Hunting Access Area

tion to an Annual Hunting License. Bear Permits are available for purchase over-the-counter, by phone or online.

Please contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549 or visit fw.ky.gov for harvest quota information. Bears taken during the modern gun season must be checked immediately after leaving the field at a department operated check station by 9 p.m. Eastern time, where successful hunters will

be issued a permanent tag by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunters must telecheck their bear before leaving the station. Locations of check stations are available online at fw.ky.gov or by calling 1-800-858-1549.

Hunters must call that same number after 9 p.m. on each day of the season to check if the bear quota has been reached. If the quota has not been reached, the season will continue

through next day.

BEAR QUOTA HUNT WITH DOGS

Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase a Bear Permit and a Bear Chase Permit or Junior Bear Chase Permit, in addition to an Annual Hunting License. Bear Chase Permits are available for purchase online at fw.ky.gov.

The harvest quota is five (5) bears of either sex. If the limit is reached, the

LEGAL BEAR HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- A modern rifle of .270 caliber or larger, with a magazine capable of holding no more than 10 rounds.
- A muzzleloading rifle of .50 caliber or larger.
- A muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotgun no larger than 10-gauge, and no smaller than 20-gauge, firing a single projectile (slug, round ball, conical bullet or sabot bullet) only.
- A handgun loaded with center-fire cartridges at least 1.285 inches in length, firing bullets of .270 caliber or larger designed to expand upon impact.
- Firearms may not be fully automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull).
- Full metal jacketed or tracer bullet ammunition is prohibited.
- Archery and crossbow equipment that is legal for deer hunting.

season will close 30 minutes after sunset that day. Successful hunters must telecheck their bear by 8 p.m. Eastern time

and also call 1-800-858-1549 within 24 hours of harvest to arrange for a physical check of the animal and receive a tag issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Bears physically checked during the bear quota hunt with dogs season must include a carcass or an intact hide that contains the skull and proof of sex.

Hunters must call 1-800-858-1549 after 9 p.m. on each day of the season to check if the bear quota has been reached. If the quota has not been reached, the season will continue through the next day.

HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT

Bear hunters and those who accompany them, or any other person hunting on public or private lands in the bear hunting zone during a firearm season for bears, must comply with the hunter orange clothing law. This requirement also applies to any person chasing bears during the Bear Quota Hunt with Dogs season.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

- Bear hunting is open to Kentucky residents only.
- Hunters and houndsmen may not disturb or take bears from dens.
- Bear hunting is prohibited on Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap National

Q: Is it legal to shoot a bear that is feeding at a trash can or dumpster?

A: No. Garbage is considered bait.

Historical Park, Kingdom Come State Park, and the Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA. Additionally, bear hunting within the 12,094 acres surrounding Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA and Kingdom Come State Park is limited to landowners, their spouses and dependent children hunting on their own property.

- See map for detailed bear reserve boundaries.
- Hunters may not take female bears with cubs, or any bear weighing less than 75 pounds.
- Hunters may not use bait during any bear season.
- Dogs may not be used to hunt bears during the archery/crossbow or modern gun seasons, but leashed tracking dogs may be used to recover wounded bears.
- Hunters 15 years old and younger who use a firearm must be accompanied by an adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

FALL TURKEY HUNTING

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 24-30 and Dec. 5-11, 2015	Sept. 5, 2015 – Jan. 18, 2016	Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 – Dec. 31, 2015

BAG LIMITS

- Four birds total, **no more than two (2) of which may be taken with a shotgun.**
- No more than one (1) bird may have a beard length of three (3) inches or longer.

- **No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day.**

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Adult hunters: Unless exempt, all fall turkey hunters ages 16 and older must carry a Fall Turkey Permit or have

been issued an authorization number for a Fall Turkey Permit before hunting.

The Fall Turkey Permit is valid for fall archery, crossbow and shotgun turkey seasons. The permit is good for a total of four turkeys, following fall turkey bag limits and equipment restrictions.

Youth hunters: Youth under the age of 12 are exempt from license and turkey permit requirements. Youth ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase a Youth Turkey Permit, which is valid during any turkey season for one turkey. Youth hunters must abide by season bag limits and harvest restrictions but can use the youth permit throughout the license year. The Youth Sportsman's License includes two (2) Youth Turkey Permits. Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt, for a legal hunter. Callers and assistants don't have to possess hunting licenses or turkey permits if they are not turkey hunting, and may carry equipment while in the field.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Turkey hunters may not use firearms to take turkeys during archery or crossbow-only seasons. On some WMAs, special equipment restrictions may apply.

YOUTH SUPERVISION

Firearm turkey hunters 15 years old and younger must be accompanied by an

adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm at all times.

HARVEST RECORDING and TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

The process and requirements for recording, checking and tagging harvested turkeys are the same as for deer and elk. See pages 7 and 8.

POSSESSION/RELEASE OF LIVE TURKEYS

Because of potential disease problems and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild.

HUNTING TURKEYS OVER BAIT IS ILLEGAL

It is illegal to hunt turkeys over bait – an area where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys have been placed. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substances exists as the result of a bona fide agricultural

LEGAL FALL TURKEY HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- Breech-loading or muzzleloading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge and no smaller than .410.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows, of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows, of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Broadheads at least 7/8" wide, which aren't barbed, chemically-treated, or have attachments that contain chemicals.

practice or manipulation of a crop for wildlife management purposes is legal for turkey hunting.

SMALL GAME HUNTING & TRAPPING

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

SMALL GAME		Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel		Aug. 15 – Nov. 13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016
Rabbit	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Jan. 31, 2016	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Jan. 31, 2016
	Western Zone	Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 10, 2016	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 10, 2016
Quail	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Jan. 31, 2016	No trapping
	Western Zone	Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 10, 2016	
Grouse*		Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016	
Falconry		Sept. 1, 2015 – March 30, 2016	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week		Dec. 26, 2015 – Jan. 1, 2016	

* In Grouse Zone only. Information about grouse hunting on public areas is available online at fw.ky.gov.

SMALL GAME

The following animals are considered small game: squirrels, rabbits, northern bobwhite (quail) and grouse.

Only rabbits and squirrels may be trapped. Quail and grouse may not be trapped. Hunting bag limits apply. Trapping equipment and restrictions are the

same as those listed in the furbearer section. A trapping license is required for anyone 12 years of age and older. Trappers must harvest squirrels and

LEGAL SMALL GAME HUNTING EQUIPMENT and METHODS

Hunting small game with sling-shots is prohibited.

Hunters may only use the following to take small game during the fall and winter seasons:

- A rimfire gun.
- .22-caliber handguns.
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 2.
- Muzzleloading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber air guns.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.
- Falconry.

rabbits upon capture, unless they possess a captive wildlife permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Seasons on WMAs and other public hunting lands not managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife may be different from statewide seasons. Individual area listings are available online at fw.ky.gov.

BAG LIMITS

- Squirrel: Daily limit is 6; possession limit is 12.
- Rabbit: Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.
- Quail: Daily limit is 8; possession limit is 16.
- Grouse: Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.

FREE YOUTH WEEK

Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and under may hunt and trap small game without a hunting or trapping license for seven consecutive days starting the Saturday after Christmas.

Hunter orange clothing must be worn by all hunters on Dec. 26-27, 2015 since youth hunters are also permitted to hunt deer with firearms at that time.

RABBIT and QUAIL ZONES

Western Zone = shaded counties.
Eastern Zone = all other counties.



Rabbit trapping permitted only when rabbit hunting season is open in each zone.

GROUSE HUNTING ZONE

Shaded counties only.



Grouse hunting is also allowed on Pennyrile State Forest, Tradewater WMA and Ft. Knox during the month of December, except during quota deer hunts.

Youth hunters must comply with all equipment regulations and bag limits for small game when hunting or trapping. Hunter education is not required for license-exempt hunters. Adults accompanying youth hunters/trappers during the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week do not need a license if they are not hunting/trapping.

FALCONRY SEASON

The limit for this hunting method is two (2) of any small game or furbearer species per falconer per day, except during the fall and winter hunting season when the limits are the same as for other methods. Falconers must possess a Falconry

Permit, which costs \$75 and is valid for three years, as well as a valid Kentucky hunting license, unless license exempt, and obey all applicable state and federal laws.

Q: Do I have to telecheck my small game?

A: No. However, you can help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by filling out the hunter cooperater surveys for small game. Click the "Hunt" tab on fw.ky.gov and choose "Game Species" from the dropdown menu.

FURBEARER HUNTING & TRAPPING

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

FURBEARERS	Hunting	Trapping
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 1, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016, day* or night	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (Exceptions apply)	
Bobcat	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 28, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only	
River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 – Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 26, 2015 – Jan. 1, 2016	

*See exception in Special Hunting Restrictions

SPECIAL HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

(Daylight hours are defined as 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.)

During modern gun deer season, raccoon and opossum hunters may not hunt during daylight hours. Night hunt-

ing on Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 shall conclude by 30 minutes before sunrise on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, which is when shooting hours open for modern gun deer season.

A hunter shall not use a light from a boat to take a raccoon or opossum.

A person shall not use the following while chasing raccoon or opossum from noon on March 1 through September 30; a firearm, a slingshot, tree climber or any device to kill, injure, or force a raccoon or opossum from a tree or den.

Coyotes may be hunted year-round with no bag limit.

They can be hunted after daylight hours using lights or night vision equipment from Feb. 1-May 31. Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting but a shell containing a single projectile may not be used.

Night hunting for coyotes is prohibited on Kentucky lands managed by Big South Fork

National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, including Beaver Creek, Cane Creek, Mill Creek and Pioneer Weapons wildlife management areas (WMAs).

SPECIAL TRAPPING RESTRICTIONS

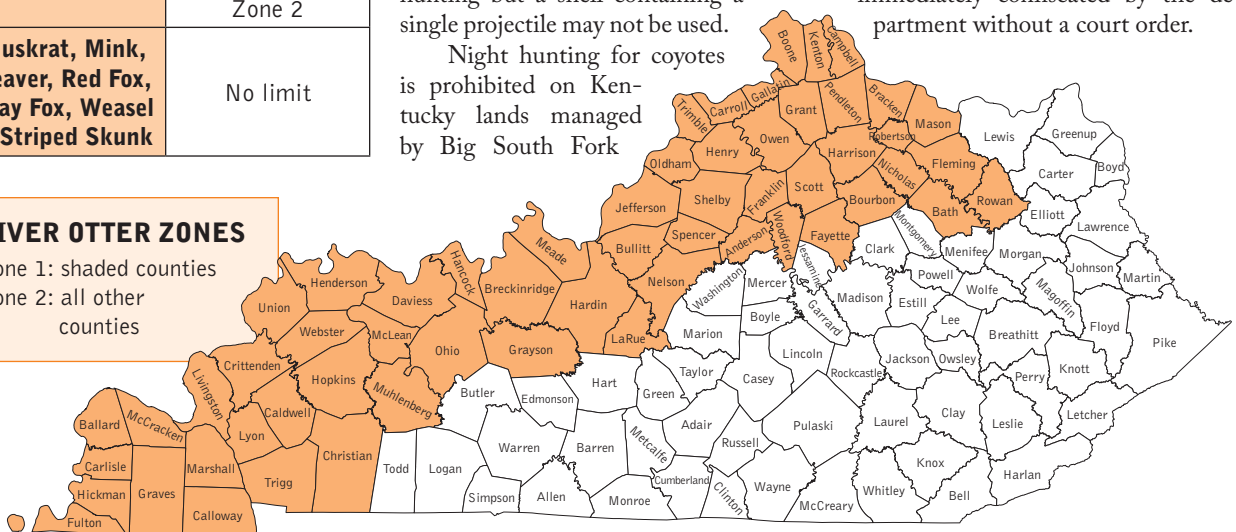
- All traps must bear a metal tag giving either the name and address of the trapper, or a unique identification number issued by the department AND the 1-800-25-ALERT phone number.
- Any trap found without a tag can be immediately confiscated by the department without a court order.

FURBEARER BAG LIMITS

Raccoon & Opossum	No limit
Coyote	No limit
Bobcat	5; no more than 3 of which shall be taken with a gun
River Otter	10; only 6 of which can be taken from Otter Zone 2
Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	No limit

RIVER OTTER ZONES

Zone 1: shaded counties
Zone 2: all other counties



LEGAL METHODS and EQUIPMENT FOR HUNTING FURBEARERS

(see Special Hunting Restrictions section for exceptions)

- Centerfire or rimfire gun.
- Shotgun no larger than 10-gauge and plugged to hold a maximum of 3 shells (two in magazine and one in chamber). There is no limit on shot size. Shot shells with a single projectile may only be used during daylight hours. Shotguns must be shoulder fired.
- Bow and arrow or crossbow
- Air guns with pellets that are at least .22 caliber in size
- Hand or mouth operated calls, electronic calls, or attracting devices.
- Falconry.

- All traps must be visited at least once every twenty-four (24) hours and all animals removed.
- Trappers must harvest furbearers upon capture, unless they possess a captive wildlife permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- Spotted skunks are protected year round and may not be taken or possessed. Report incidental trappings to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- It is illegal to intentionally obstruct or disrupt the right of a person to lawfully take wildlife by trapping.

TELECHECK and CITES TAGGING

Harvested bobcats and otters must be telechecked by calling 1-800-245-4263 by midnight on the day the animal is recovered. A hunter or trapper who wants to have a bobcat or otter mounted shall provide his or her name, telephone number and telecheck confirmation number to the taxidermist. Taxidermists cannot legally accept an unchecked otter or bobcat for mounting.



Sample trap tags

LEGAL METHODS and EQUIPMENT FOR TRAPPING FURBEARERS

Trappers may use lights from boats or vehicles to check traps.

Traps may not be set in trails/paths commonly used by people or domestic animals.

There shall be no restrictions on the size or type of trap used as a water set.

The following equipment is permitted for dry-land sets, but traps may not be set closer than ten (10) feet apart.

- Deadfall
- Wire cage or box trap.
- Foothold traps with a maximum inside jaw spread of six (6) inches measured perpendicular to the hinges.
- Body-gripping traps with a maximum inside jaw spread of seven and one-half (7.5) inches measured parallel with the trigger.

A snare is a wire, cable, or string with a knot, loop, or a single piece closing device, the deployment of which is or is not spring-assisted, but any spring-assisted device is not for the purpose of applying tension to the closing device.

A Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag, issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, must be attached to the raw fur of any bobcat or river otter taken in Kentucky, if the hunter or trapper intends to sell or export internationally.

To request a CITES tag, log on

to “My Profile” from the department’s homepage at fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) and provide the animal’s telecheck confirmation number.

CITES tags must immediately be attached to the animal or pelt per the instructions included with the mailed tag and remain with the pelt until it is processed. Possession of an unused bobcat or otter CITES tag is prohibited.

A person who transfers, but does not sell, a river otter or bobcat to another person or taxidermist, is not required to request a CITES tag. But, this person must attach a handmade carcass tag to the animal that contains the telecheck confirmation number and the hunter or trapper’s name and phone number.

BUYING and SELLING HIDES

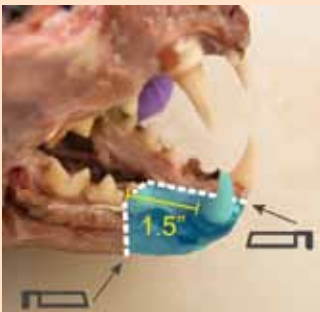
There is no time restriction on the holding of raw furs of furbearers by a trapper or hunter after the close of furbearer season. Raw furs may be sold only to licensed taxidermists, licensed fur buyers or licensed fur processors.

FREE YOUTH WEEK

Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and under may hunt and trap small game without a hunting or trapping license for seven consecutive days starting the Saturday after Christmas.

Please refer to the hunter orange clothing law section for guidelines.

Youth hunters must comply with all equipment regulations and bag limits for furbearers when hunting or trapping. Hunter education is not required for license-exempt hunters. Adults accompanying youth hunters/trappers during the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week do not need a license if they are not hunting/trapping.



FURBEARER HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Kentucky Fish & Wildlife is collecting lower canines from harvested bobcats and river otters for a population study. Please contact the department at 1-800-858-1549 to request a sample packet and instructions. Thank you for your contribution to furbearer management.

OTHER SPECIES

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

OTHER SPECIES	Hunting
Crow	One-half hour before sunrise Sept. 1 – Nov. 7, 2015 and Jan. 4 – Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only
Bullfrog	Noon May 15 – Midnight Oct. 31, 2015
Groundhog	Year-round
Turtles*	Year-round, day or night

* Alligator snapping turtles may not be harvested.

CROW SEASON

A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt. A Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit is not required.

Electronic or mechanical calling devices may be used during the open seasons. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

There is no daily or possession limit on crows.

Crows observed committing or about to commit acts of depredation may be taken year-round; however, persons attempting to take depredating crows shall not use blinds, decoys, calls or other lures to attract birds into shooting range during the closed season.

BULLFROG SEASON

Bullfrog season opens at noon on the third Friday in May, and runs through the end of October.

The daily limit (noon to noon) is 15. The possession limit is 30. If bullfrogs are taken by gun or bow and arrow, a hunting license is required. If taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required.

If frogs are taken by gig or by hand, either a hunting or fishing license is valid. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake, or in a boat, from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31.

TURTLES

Snapping turtles and soft shell

turtles may be taken year-round with no bag limit, but may not be harvested for commercial purposes. Alligator snapping turtles cannot be harvested.

A hunting license is required if turtles are taken by gun or bow and arrow. Consult the Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide for information on other legal means of harvest.

WILD PIGS

Wild pigs may be hunted year-round, with no bag limit, except on Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (see page 33).

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.

Landowners are strongly encouraged to work with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to remove wild pigs from their property. Trapping is the most effective method of removal.

Tell your local conservation officer about the use of snares and/or corral traps on your property.

Wild pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released. It is illegal

to possess, sell or transport wild pigs in Kentucky. To report sightings, illegal activities related to wild pigs, or to get advice on effective control, contact the Department.

GROUNDHOGS

Groundhogs may be hunted statewide, year-round, with no bag limit. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.

BIRDS

- Some species of exotic, non-native birds (pheasant, chukar, and Eurasian collared dove) may be hunted year-round, with no hunting license required and no bag limit.
- English sparrows and starlings may be hunted year-round, with no bag limit, but a hunting license is required, unless license exempt.
- Pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River Lake WMA, Yellowbank WMA and Clay WMA.
- All birds of prey and native songbirds are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

HOOFED STOCK (OTHER THAN WHITE-TAILED DEER and ELK)

- Exotic, non-native hooped stock may be hunted year-round.
- No license required.
- No bag limit or checking requirement.
- Fallow deer are not legal to hunt on Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area.

MAMMALS and OTHER WILDLIFE

- The spotted skunk, a rare species found in eastern Kentucky, is a protected species and may not be taken.
- All federally threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.



The "My Profile" feature provides fast and easy access to your Kentucky Fish and Wildlife records.

Scan this symbol with your smart-phone to access it.

QUOTA HUNTS

OVERVIEW

Complete details for all quota hunts are available online. Click the “Hunt” tab on fw.ky.gov, choose “Quota Hunts” from the dropdown menu and scroll to the appropriate hunt.

INTRODUCTION

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife conducts quota hunts for deer, small game (pheasant, wild quail and upland birds) and migratory birds (waterfowl and mourning doves).

Some hunts are mentored hunts for youth and accompanying adults. Some hunts are open to mobility-impaired hunters only.

Any resident or nonresident may apply for quota hunts. Only the person(s) successfully drawn for quota hunts may hunt. Substitutions are not allowed.

Applicants drawn for quota hunts must purchase applicable licenses and permits to legally hunt during the quota hunts.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for quota hunts: Go online to fw.ky.gov or call 1-877-598-2401. The non-refundable fee is \$3 per hunter to apply.

The application period is September 1-30 only. Hunters may apply for multiple quota hunts for different species at the same time.

Applicants will receive a confirmation number.

When the drawing is completed, results will be posted online at fw.ky.gov.

Applicants may also call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) at 1-800-858-1549 and provide either their confirmation number, order number or Social Security number to find out if they were selected.

BEAR QUOTA HUNT WITH DOGS

A bear quota hunt with dogs is

available to Kentucky residents only. Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase a Bear Permit and a Bear Chase Permit or Junior Bear Chase Permit, in addition to an Annual Hunting License. For additional details, consult the Bear Hunting section.

QUOTA DEER HUNTS

Deer quota hunts are held on 16 WMAs, three state parks (Greenbo Lake, Green River Lake and Lake Barkley), Pennyriple State Forest, and Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area.

Additionally, there are quota deer hunts for mobility-impaired hunters on Green River Lake WMA, Taylorsville Lake WMA, and Zilpo-Twin Knobs Campgrounds (on Cave Run Lake).

PHEASANT QUOTA HUNTS

Pheasant quota hunts are held on Yellowbank WMA, Green River Lake WMA and Clay WMA. All drawn pheasant hunters must buy (regardless of attendance) and carry while hunting a Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit, which is \$25 and may be purchased online or from license vendors anytime before the hunt. Permits are not transferrable.

WILD QUAIL and UPLAND BIRD QUOTA HUNTS

Quota hunts for wild quail are held on the Ken Unit of Peabody WMA.

Upland bird (wild grouse, wild quail and woodcock) quota hunts are held on Clay WMA.

WATERFOWL QUOTA HUNTS

Waterfowl quota hunts are held on Ballard and Sloughs WMA.

MOURNING DOVE MENTOR HUNTS

Youth hunters and an accompanying adult may participate in Mentor Dove Hunts on a limited number of public fields.

Locations of mentor hunts will

be published in the Kentucky Hunting Guide for Dove and Early Migratory Bird seasons, available for download from the department's website or by calling 1-800-858-1549 in early August.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED QUOTA HUNTS

Persons with one of the following physical conditions are eligible to apply for a mobility-impaired quota hunt. At check in, drawn hunters must show a WMA Mobility-Impaired Access Permit, available in advance of the hunt date from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

- Has permanent paralysis of at least one (1) leg;
- Has at least one (1) foot amputated;
- Is permanently confined to a wheelchair or must use crutches, or a walker as a means of support to pursue daily activities;
- Is restricted by a lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced respiratory expiratory volume for one (1) second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one (1) liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty (60) mm/hg on room air at rest;
- Requires portable oxygen;
- Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class 3 or Class 4 according to standards set by the American Heart Association; or
- Has a diagnosed disease which creates a severe mobility impairment.

Follow the rules!

Hunters who do not comply with quota hunt requirements are ineligible to apply for any quota hunt the following year (including deer, pheasant, quail, upland bird and waterfowl), and will lose any accumulated preference points.

2015-16 DEER QUOTA HUNT CHOICES

Hunt Choices		Dates	# of Slots	# of 2014 applicants	Hunt Remarks (Quota Hunts are for either sex deer unless otherwise noted)
1	Ballard	Nov. 7-8	100	975	Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks. Hunters awarded one preference point for each female deer harvested, up to four. Scouting permitted through Oct. 14.
2	Beaver Creek	Nov. 7-8	330	267	Antlered deer only. Limit one during quota hunt.
3	Big Rivers WMA & State Forest	Nov. 7-8	100	490	
4	Clay	Nov. 7-8	185	750	Limit 4, only 1 of which may be antlered, during quota hunt. Hunters awarded 1 preference point for each female deer harvested, up to 4.
5	Dewey Lake	Dec. 5-6	150	399	Limit one during quota hunt. Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
6	Fishtrap Lake	Nov. 21-22	200	293	Limit one during quota hunt.
7	Greenbo Lake State Resort Park	Jan. 5-6	90	145	
8	Green River Lake & Dennis-Gray	Nov. 7-8	400	650	Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
9	Green River Lake Mobility-Impaired*	Nov. 7-8	15	14	Open only to persons who are mobility-impaired. Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
10	Green River Lake State Park #1	Dec. 10-13	55	143	Archery/Crossbow only. No check in or out. Must telecheck deer taken. Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
11	Green River Lake State Park #2	Dec. 17-20	55	79	Archery/Crossbow only. No check in or out. Must telecheck deer taken. Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
12	Kentucky River	Nov. 7-8	65		
13	Kleber and Rich #1	Nov. 7-8	175	457	
14	Kleber and Rich #2	Dec. 5-6	175	230	
15	Lake Barkley State Resort Park	Jan. 5-6	75	174	
16	Mill Creek	Nov. 7-8	350	374	Limit one during quota hunt.
17	Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area	Dec. 12-13	30		User permit required.
18	Paintsville Lake	Nov. 7-8	300	415	Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
19	Pennyrile State Forest/Tradewater WMA	Nov. 7-8	300	447	Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
20	Taylorsville Lake WMA #1	Nov. 7-8	268	513	Antlerless deer only. Hunters awarded 1 preference point for each female deer harvested, up to 4.
21	Taylorsville Lake WMA Mobility-impaired* #1	Nov. 7-8	7	9	Antlerless deer only. Open only to persons who are mobility-impaired. Hunters awarded 1 preference point for each female deer harvested, up to 4.
22	Taylorsville Lake WMA #2	Dec. 5-6	268	472	
23	Taylorsville Lake WMA Mobility-Impaired* #2	Dec. 5-6	7	13	Open only to persons who are mobility-impaired.
24	Taylorsville Lake WMA #3	Jan. 9-10	268	289	
25	Taylorsville Lake WMA Mobility-Impaired* #3	Jan. 9-10	7	6	Open only to persons who are mobility-impaired.
26	Veterans Memorial #1	Nov. 7-8	65	361	
27	Veterans Memorial #2	Dec. 5-6	65		Antlerless deer only. Hunters awarded 1 preference point for each female deer harvested, up to 4.
28	West Kentucky WMA	Nov. 21-25	160	179	Shotgun and Muzzleloader only. Minimum 15" outside antler spread for bucks.
29	Twin Knobs Mobility-Impaired*	Dec. 12	12	8	Open only to persons who are mobility-impaired.

*Only hunters who are mobility-impaired as described on page 25 can apply and be drawn for this hunt.
Antlered deer taken during quota hunts count against the statewide limit of one antlered deer per hunter, per season.

PUBLIC LANDS HUNTING

OVERVIEW

**COMPLETE DETAILS FOR
PUBLIC LAND HUNTING
ARE NOW ONLINE AT
fw.ky.gov.**

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife owns, leases or manages more than 80 wildlife management areas (WMAs) for public use. On some areas, a user permit is required. Please refer to specific area listings for that information. The rest are open to hunting free of additional charge.

Many public-use areas have special regulations and hunting season dates that are different from statewide seasons.

The information here applies to users of all WMAs owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. If you intend to hunt (or otherwise visit) public lands listed under "Wildlife Management Areas," you must comply with the following guidelines.

1. For game listed in this guide, hunting seasons on the WMAs listed on the following pages are open only as stated.
2. County zone deer bag limits apply to all WMAs unless otherwise noted under the area listing. Hunters are limited to one deer per day on WMAs, except during quota hunts that allow more deer to be taken, and on Zone 1 WMAs.
3. Quota deer hunters may take up to two (2) deer on a quota hunt in Zones 2, 3 and 4, only one of which may be antlered, unless otherwise noted under the area listing.
4. Squirrel, rabbit, quail, grouse and furbearer hunting is closed the first two days of modern gun deer season on WMAs, if gun deer hunting is permitted.

5. Unless otherwise noted, persons shall not allow unleashed dogs from March 1 until the third Saturday in August, except during department-authorized field trials, or when training a retriever or other water dog if the activity is authorized by a sign at the body of water. The dog must remain leashed except while training, or within 100 feet of the water, or as stated under the area listing or posted on the WMA.
6. Quota hunts for pheasant, deer, quail, upland bird, waterfowl and elk hunts require advance application. (Refer to "Quota Hunts" and "Elk Hunting" sections.) Advance application is not required for other listed hunts.
7. Camping is permitted only in designated areas. Check WMA maps online at fw.ky.gov or call the WMA office for camping availability through Kentucky Fish and Wildlife or other campgrounds. Parking must be confined to designated parking areas if such areas exist. If no parking area is designated, parking is generally allowed alongside maintained roads in such a manner that does not block a road or gate or prevent access to a portion of the area. Unless otherwise authorized by the department, mechanized vehicles (excluding wheelchairs) are permitted only on maintained roads open to public use. It is unlawful to cut trees or fences, dump trash or litter, or damage any property or habitat in any fashion.
8. Trapping requires permission. Obtain permission from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling the WMA office.
9. Hunters shall not enter or hunt in areas that have been designated closed by signs.
10. A person shall not discharge a firearm within 100 yards of a residence or occupied building located on or off the area.
11. A person shall not distribute or

During quota hunts...

During a WMA deer quota hunt, and the open firearm deer hunts at Grayson Lake and West Kentucky WMAs, only persons participating in those hunts are allowed to be on those WMAs, except waterfowl hunters in some areas that may be open, or if a part of the WMA is otherwise open as noted in the following area listings. Persons assisting mobility-impaired hunters are permitted access during a quota hunt.

place bait, hunt over bait or otherwise participate in baiting wildlife on a WMA.

12. A group of ten (10) or more people who gather for any event or organized activity on a WMA shall apply to the Department at least 30 days before the date of the event. Groups shall apply on a form provided by the department. The Department shall retain the authority to deny events, or otherwise restrict, institute additional requirements for, or direct the rescheduling of, any event to avoid user conflicts or for other legitimate reasons. Permit requests for events that do not meet WMA user guidelines shall be denied, and events may be canceled in progress if participants fail to comply with user guidelines or create hazards or disruption for others.
13. Horseback riding is permitted on some WMAs during certain times of the year and under certain restrictions. Unless hunting, horses shall only be ridden on designated horse riding trails or a maintained public road open to vehicular traffic. Horses may not be ridden on WMAs during firearms seasons for turkey, deer, bear or elk unless participating or assisting in a legal elk hunt.

14. Public shooting ranges are available on Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA, Higginson-Henry WMA, John A. Kleber WMA, Jones-Keeney WMA, Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA, Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area, Peabody WMA, Taylorsville Lake WMA and West Kentucky WMA. The ranges are self-serve and all users must comply with the rules posted by sign. Shooting ranges are closed during deer quota hunts at applicable WMAs. Ranges can be reserved for special events by contacting the WMA manager 30 days in advance of the event. Public shooting ranges also are available on Daniel Boone National Forest. Details are available online at www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf by clicking on "Recreation" and then "Other Activities."
15. On all WMAs, Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area and Daniel Boone National Forest, a person shall not use a nail, spike, screw-in device, wire, or tree climber for attaching a tree stand or climbing a tree. A portable stand or climbing device that does not injure a tree may be used. Stands must be marked with the hunter's name and address, placed no more than two (2) weeks before the opening of the season and removed within one (1) week following the last day of each hunting period. A person shall not use an existing permanent tree stand.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HUNTER ACCESS TO WMAs

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife offers special exceptions to hunting and fishing regulations for persons who are mobility-impaired and want to hunt and fish on select WMAs. (Eligibility requirements appear in the Quota Hunts section.) Persons interested in applying for a Mobility-Impaired Access Permit should contact the department for an application or print one from the agency's website at fw.ky.gov.

Applicants for a Mobility-Impaired Access Permit shall fill out the required information on the application and obtain the attestation and signature from a licensed physician describing the mobility impairment.

A mobility-impaired individual shall have a completed Mobility-Impaired Access Permit application on his

or her person at all times while participating in such activities, along with the appropriate hunting licenses and permits.

Mobility-impaired access areas have been designated on portions of the following WMAs: Barren River, Fishtrap Lake, Green River Lake, Griffith Woods, Kentucky River, Lake Cumberland, Mill Creek, Miller Welch-Central Kentucky, Mullins, Peabody (Sinclair Unit), Redbird, Taylorsville Lake, West Kentucky, Yatesville Lake and Yellowbank WMAs.

The Mobility-Impaired Access Permit allows the following activities by a mobility-impaired individual:

- Discharge of a firearm or other legal hunting device from a motor vehicle when the vehicle is motionless and has its engine turned off. The motor vehicle shall be used as a place to wait or watch for game and shall not be used to chase, pursue, or drive game.
- May operate electric wheelchairs, ATVs, and other passenger vehicles on or off gated, ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic, but only on designated tracts of designated WMAs.
- Roads may be accessed March 1 through the third Friday in August.
- Tracts designated as mobility-impaired access areas shall be posted with signs.
- Vehicular access shall not be permitted on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted with annual grains or agricultural crops.
- It shall be permissible to access areas which are not roads the third Saturday of August until the end of February.
- ATV users shall adhere to manufacturer recommendations including wearing a helmet, wearing safety glasses, and restricting riding to one (1) person, while using ATVs on WMAs.

A person with a Mobility-Impaired Access Permit may designate one (1) qualified assistant. The assistant may:

- Track and dispatch a wounded animal, retrieve an animal, or render other assistance in accordance with all other Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and WMA laws and regulations.

A qualified assistant shall not:

Have questions? Scan this symbol with your smartphone for quick access to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website!



- Operate his or her own ATV; or hunt or shoot from an ATV.

STATE PARK and OTHER OPEN DEER HUNTS

Open deer hunts are offered on the following areas. All statewide bag limits, hunter licensing and other deer hunting requirements and zone restrictions apply, in addition to those given below. Discharging firearms within 100 yards of maintained roads or buildings is prohibited. Baiting deer is prohibited.

- **Yatesville Lake State Park and Lawrence County Recreation Area (2,106 acres, 606-673-1492):** Open under statewide regulations for archery, crossbow and muzzleloading deer hunting the **second** Monday of December for three days. All hunters must check in at the state park campground booth between 12-8 p.m. (Eastern) on the day before the hunt. Check in is not permitted on hunt days or at any other time. Check out is not required, but deer taken must be telechecked as required under statewide regulations. Hunters will receive a map at check-in showing the area open to hunting and containing any other special instructions. No other hunting is permitted on Yatesville Lake State Park property.
- **Jenny Wiley State Resort Park (1,415 acres, Floyd County, 1-800-325-0142):** Open the **second** Saturday of January for two consecutive days, limit two deer, only one of which may be antlered. Limited to the first 15 mobility-impaired hunters who check in at the park Ranger's Station on the day before the hunt. Check in and check out each day at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife district headquarters located one mile from the Ranger's Station. Hunters must meet the mobility-impaired eligibility requirements outlined on page 25. (Mobility-Impaired Access Permit required at check-in.) Hunters must also check in and out on hunt days, and must telecheck deer taken. Hunters may be accompanied by another person, but that person will not be permitted to hunt. Minimum 15-inch outside antler spread for bucks.
- An open youth hunt is held at **Grayson Lake WMA** on the first Saturday in November for two consecutive days and is limited to youths ages 15 and under. See page 32 for details.

PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS QUICK REFERENCE

The chart below should be used as a quick reference only. WMAs and other public lands may be open to hunting and trapping during statewide seasons or have

different dates and regulations, as determined by the managing agency. For all the details on these public lands visit fw.ky.gov. Also note that some of these public

lands may have areas that are off-limits to hunting or trapping, as noted by signs, and that units within these areas may have different season dates or regulations.

PURCHASE REGION PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS			Deer - Archery/ Crossbow	Deer - Muzzleloader	Deer - Modern Gun	Deer - Youth Firearm	Squirrel	Rabbit	Grouse	Quail	Turkey	Furbearer*	Bear	Elk Quota	Other
MAP # and AREA NAME	PHONE														
1 Ballard WMA* Main Unit	(270) 224-2244		1			3	2								
2 Boatwright WMA* Swan Lake Unit	(270) 224-2244		1			3	2								
3 Coil Estate WMA*	(270) 224-2244														
4 Doug Travis WMA*	(270) 488-3233														
5 Lake Barkley WMA* Duck Island Refuge	(270) 753-6913		1	4		3	2				1				
6 Livingston County WMA & SNA*	(270) 753-6913														
7 Obion Creek WMA	(270) 488-3233														
8 Ohio River Islands WMA* Stewart Island Unit	(270) 753-6913		1	4		3	2				1				
9 Pennyriple State Forest*	(270) 797-3241								5						
10 Tradewater WMA*	(270) 753-6913								5						
11 West Kentucky WMA*	(270) 488-3233				7			6		6					

OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR ALL SPECIES in accordance with the county in which they are located: **12.** Beechy Creek WMA (270-753-6913), **13.** Jones-Keeney WMA (270-753-6913), **14.** Kaler Bottoms WMA (270-753-6913), **15.** Kentucky Lake WMA (270-753-6913) and **16.** Winford WMA (270-224-2244).

CALL FOR DETAILS: **A.** Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge (270-527-5770); **B.** Fort Campbell Military Reservation (270-798-2175); **C.** Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area (270-924-2065); **D.** Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge (731-538-2481).

EXCEPTIONS:

- Open under statewide archery/crossbow seasons through Oct. 14 only.
- Open Aug. 15 – Oct. 14, 2015
- Open during the youth-only firearm season; closed for free youth weekend.
- Open during early muzzleloader season; closed during late muzzleloader season.
- December 1-31; daily limit 2.
- Tracts 1, 4, 5 and "A" tracts open Jan. 1-10 except if harvest limits are reached before Jan. 10; Tracts 2, 3, 6 and 7 open with statewide seasons and close Dec. 31.
- Open shotgun/muzzleloader deer hunt from Jan. 16-18, 2016; Limited to 140 hunters; Check in and check out required.

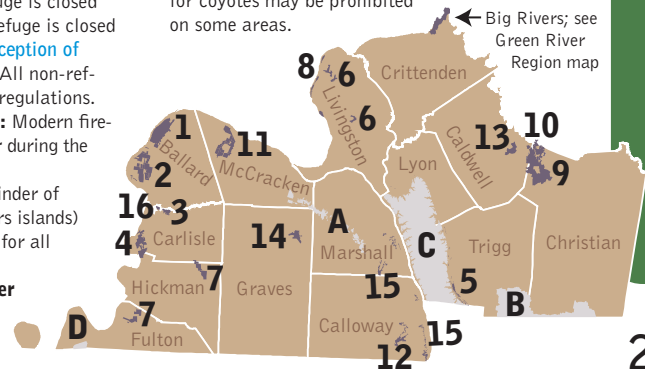
OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

* **Ballard WMA:** The main unit is closed to unauthorized public access Oct. 15 – Mar. 15; The area west of Hwy 473 within the two-mile driving loop is closed to all hunting as marked by signs; The 400-acre tract located south of Sallie Crice/Terrell Landing Road is open under statewide regulations for hunting and trapping seasons; A hunter shall not take an antlered deer with an outside antler spread less than 15

- inches at any time, on any part of this WMA.
- * **Boatwright WMA:** Olmsted, Peel and all other units open under statewide regulations for all hunting and trapping seasons, except some portions may be closed to public access as marked by signs.
 - * **Coil Estate WMA:** Eastern portion open under statewide regulations for all hunting and trapping seasons; Western portion closed to all hunting and trapping as marked by signs.
 - * **Doug Travis WMA:** Some areas closed to public access as marked by signs Nov. 1 – Mar. 15.
 - * **Lake Barkley WMA:** North Refuge is closed Nov. 1 – Feb. 15; Duck Island Refuge is closed Oct. 15 – March 15, with the exception of early muzzleloader deer season; All non-refuge tracts open under statewide regulations.
 - * **Livingston County WMA & SNA:** Modern firearms may not be used to take deer during the modern gun deer season.
 - * **Ohio River Islands WMA:** Remainder of WMA (Pryor, Rondeau and Sisters islands) open under statewide regulations for all hunting and trapping seasons.
 - * **Pennyriple State Forest-Tradewater WMA:** A hunter shall not take a deer with an outside antler

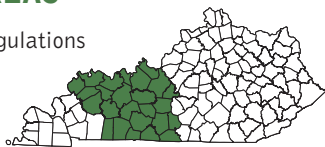
spread less than 15 inches.

- * **West Kentucky WMA:** Check-in required before entering any area marked with an "A"; A hunter shall not take an antlered deer with an outside antler spread less than 15 inches at any time on any part of this WMA; Only shotguns may be used for small game or furbearer hunting; Hunters may not use centerfire rifles or handguns to take deer.
- * **Furbearer:** Trapping requires permission. Obtain permission from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling the WMA office. Night hunting for coyotes may be prohibited on some areas.



GREEN RIVER REGION PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

- Open under statewide regulations
- Closed
- Quota hunt
- # Open with exception(s)



Deer - Archery/ Crossbow	Deer - Muzzleloader	Deer - Modern Gun	Deer - Youth Firearm	Squirrel	Rabbit	Grouse	Quail	Turkey	Furbearer*	Bear	Elk Quota	Other
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MAP # and AREA NAME	PHONE	Deer - Archery/ Crossbow	Deer - Muzzleloader	Deer - Modern Gun	Deer - Youth Firearm	Squirrel	Rabbit	Grouse	Quail	Turkey	Furbearer*	Bear	Elk Quota	Other
1 Barren River Lake WMA*	(270) 646-5167	■	■	■	■	■	1	■	1	2	■	■	■	■
2 Big Rivers WMA & State Forest	(270) 374-3025	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
3 Higginson-Henry WMA	(270) 389-3580	3	■	■	3	■	4	■	4	5	■	■	■	■
4 Nolin River Lake WMA	(270) 646-5167	■	■	■	■	■	1	■	1	■	■	■	■	■
5 Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area*	(502) 942-9171	■	■	■	■	■	6	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
6 Peabody WMA*	(270) 476-1889	■	■	7	■	■	■	■	8	■	■	■	■	■
7 Sloughs WMA - Sauerheber Unit*	(270) 827-2673	9	9	9	9	10	■	■	9	■	■	■	■	■
8 Yellowbank WMA	(270) 547-6856	■	■	■	■	■	1	■	1	■	■	■	■	11

OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR ALL SPECIES in accordance with the county in which they are located:
9. Clear Creek WMA (270-476-1889); **10.** Green River State Forest (270-797-3241); **11.** L.B. Davison WMA (270-476-1889); **12.** Lee K. Nelson WMA (270-389-3580); **13.** Marrowbone State Forest & WMA (270-646-5167); **14.** Rough River Lake WMA (270-646-5167).

CALL FOR DETAILS: A. Fort Knox Military Reservation (502-624-7311 or 502-624-2712).

EXCEPTIONS:

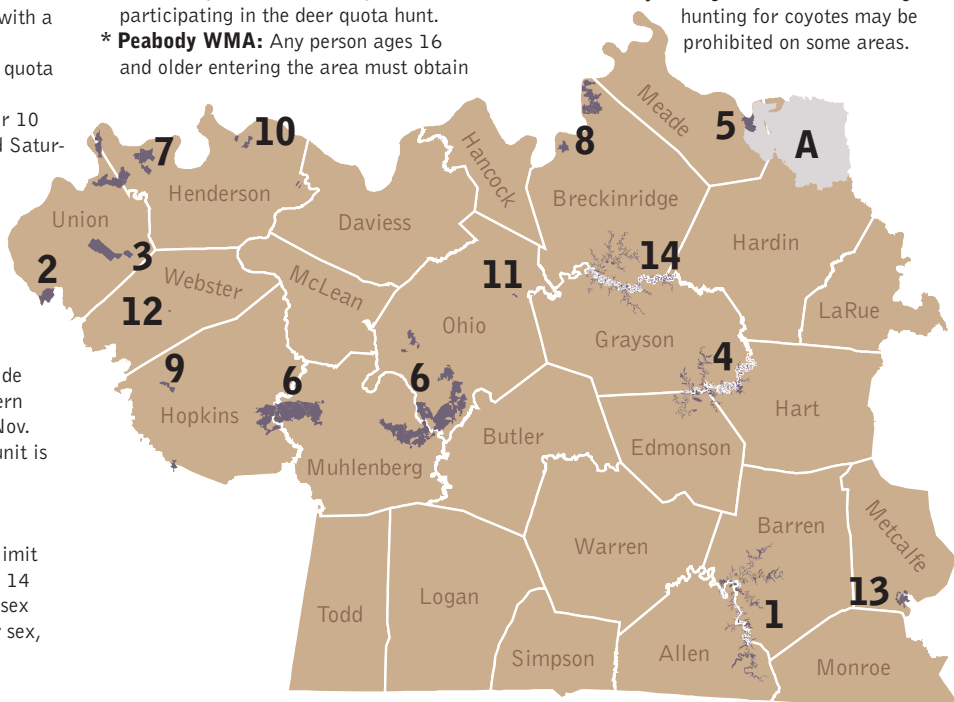
- Rabbit and quail hunting seasons open Nov. 1 - Dec. 31; Closed at Yellowbank WMA during pheasant quota hunts.
- On the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands, hunters may use a muzzleloading shotgun or crossbow during the fall firearm season and may use a crossbow during the fall archery season.
- Hunters may harvest only one deer per year. [Crossbow season for deer is open under statewide regulations.](#)
- Rabbit and quail hunting seasons open Nov. 16 - Dec. 31.
- Wild turkeys may not be harvested with a firearm (archery/crossbow only).
- Open Dec. 1-31, except during deer quota hunts.
- Open under statewide regulations for 10 consecutive days starting the second Saturday in November.
- Call the WMA's office for information regarding quail hunting.
- On the Sauerheber Unit, the archery, crossbow, muzzleloader and youth firearm deer seasons open under statewide regulations through Oct. 31; Crenshaw and Duncan II tracts open under statewide regulations through the end of modern gun season and waterfowl hunting Nov. 1 - Mar. 15. The remainder of the unit is closed to all public access Nov. 1 - Mar. 15, as designated by signs.
- Open Aug. 16 - Oct. 31.
- Pheasant quota hunts, either sex, limit two, Dec. 11, 12 and 13. Open Dec. 14 only to drawn quota hunters, either sex limit three. Open Dec. 15-31, either sex, daily limit three.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

- * **Barren River Lake WMA:** On the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands, hunters shall not use a modern firearm to take game.
- * **Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area:** User permit required. A person shall not enter the area during the deer quota hunt without a valid quota hunt confirmation number. All small game and turkey seasons closed during the quota deer hunt. Hunters may not use rifles or ball or slug ammunition to take furbearers and may not use a rimfire gun to take small game unless participating in the deer quota hunt.
- * **Peabody WMA:** Any person ages 16 and older entering the area must obtain

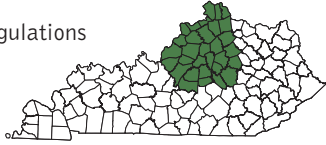
and carry a Peabody WMA user permit. Individual permits may be obtained through any license vendor. An event permit is available from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to any organization to use the area for any allowable activity. Permits are non-transferable.

- * **Sloughs WMA:** Ash Flats, Grassy Pond, Powells Lake, Jenny Hole, Highland Creek, and Cape Hills units are open for all hunting and trapping seasons.
- * **Furbearer:** Trapping requires permission. Obtain permission from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling the WMA office. Night hunting for coyotes may be prohibited on some areas.



BLUEGRASS REGION PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

- Open under statewide regulations
- Closed
- Quota hunt
- # Open with exception(s)



MAP # and AREA NAME	PHONE	Deer - Archery/ Crossbow	Deer - Muzzleloader	Deer - Modern Gun	Deer - Youth Firearm	Squirrel	Rabbit	Grouse	Quail	Turkey	Furbearer*	Bear	Elk Quota	Other
1 Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA*	(859) 428-2262	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	1		1					
2 Dr. James R. Rich WMA	(502) 535-6335	Blue	Red	Yellow	Blue	Blue								
3 Dr. Norman & Martha Adair WMA	(859) 428-2262	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Blue								
4 Griffith Woods WMA	(859) 428-2262	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Blue								
5 John A. Kleber WMA	(502) 535-6335	Blue	Red	Yellow	Blue	Blue	1		1					
6 John C. Williams WMA	(502) 477-9024	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Blue								
7 Kentucky River WMA	(502) 535-6335	Blue	Red	Yellow	4	Blue								
8 Knobs State Forest & WMA	(502) 477-9024	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Blue								
9 Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA*	(859) 986-4130	2	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Red	Red			3			
10 Mullins WMA	(859) 428-2262	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Blue	1		1					
11 T. N. Sullivan WMA	(502) 535-6335	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Blue								
12 Taylorsville Lake WMA	(502) 477-9024	Blue	Red	Yellow	Blue	Blue	1		1					
13 Twin Eagle WMA	(502) 535-6335	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Blue								
14 Veterans Memorial WMA*	(859) 428-2262	Blue	Red	Yellow	Blue	Blue			Red					

OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR ALL SPECIES in accordance with the county in which they are located:

15. Marion County WMA & State Forest (502-477-9024). CALL FOR DETAILS: A. Bluegrass Army Depot (859-779-6651).

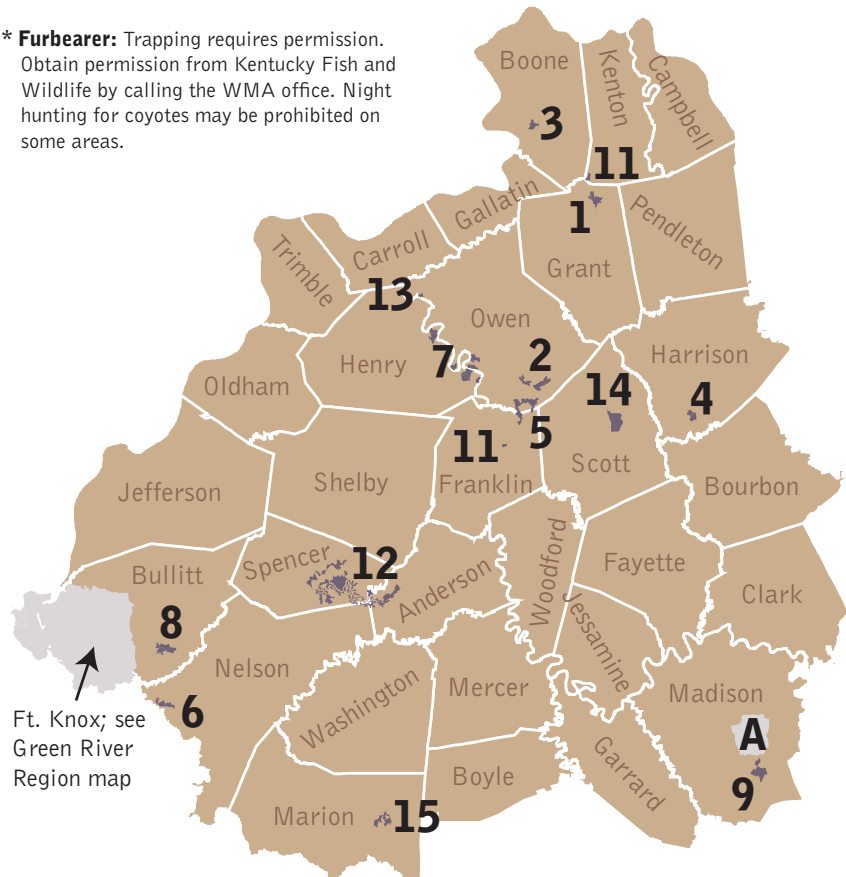
EXCEPTIONS:

1. Open Nov. 1 – Dec. 31.
2. Open archery hunt, either sex, Monday through Thursday only, from the first Saturday in September through Dec. 17, and daily from Dec. 18 through the third Monday in January; Open crossbow hunt, either sex, Monday through Thursday only, Oct. 1 through third full weekend of October and daily from Dec. 18-31; Closed during scheduled field trials as posted on bulletin board at WMA office.
3. Open for furbearer trapping; Closed for furbearer hunting.
4. Check-in, check-out required at John A. Kleber WMA office.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

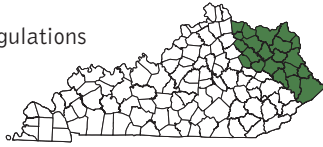
- * **Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA:** Unleashed dogs are prohibited Apr. 1 until the third Saturday in August, except during department-authorized field trials and the spring squirrel season.
- * **Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA:** Unleashed dogs are prohibited April 1 until the third Saturday in August, except during department-authorized field trials and the spring squirrel season. At other times of the year, unleashed dogs are permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- * **Veterans Memorial WMA:** Access within the WMA may be restricted due to construction.

* **Furbearer:** Trapping requires permission. Obtain permission from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling the WMA office. Night hunting for coyotes may be prohibited on some areas.



NORTHEAST REGION PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

- Open under statewide regulations
- Closed
- Quota hunt
- # Open with exception(s)



MAP # and AREA NAME	PHONE	Deer - Archery/ Crossbow	Deer - Muzzleloader	Deer - Modern Gun	Deer - Youth Firearm	Squirrel	Rabbit	Grouse	Quail	Turkey	Furbearer*	Bear	Elk Quota	Other
1 Clay WMA - Main Unit*	(859) 289-8564	1					2	3	3					4/5
2 Czar Hunting Access* - Beech Fork Tract	(606) 780-0854											15	16	
3 Dewey Lake WMA*	(606) 226-9133			14	14							14	14	
4 Fishtrap Lake WMA	(606) 671-1113											15		
5 Fleming WMA	(859) 289-8564						6	7	6					
6 Grayson Lake WMA*	(606) 474-8535	8			9									
7 Paintsville Lake WMA*	(606) 226-9133			10	10								10	
8 Pioneer Weapons WMA	(606) 784-6428	17	11	11	11	19	19	19	19	17	19			
9 South Shore WMA*	(606) 474-8535		18	12	12									
10 Yatesville Lake WMA	(606) 686-3312			13										
A Daniel Boone National Forest	(859) 745-3100											15	16	

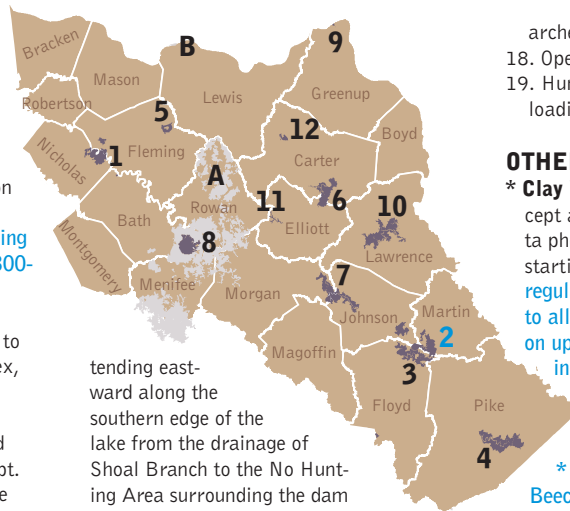
OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS for all species in accordance with the county in which they are located:

11. Ed Mabry-Laurel Gorge WMA (606-474-8535); **12.** Tygarts State Forest (502-564-4496).

CALL FOR DETAILS: B. Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge (304-375-2923).

EXCEPTIONS

1. Archery hunting prohibited during the quota fox hunting field trials.
2. Open Nov. 1 – Dec. 31, except closed Nov. 7-8 for the deer quota hunt and Dec. 4-7 for the pheasant quota hunt. See “Other Restrictions” for information about pending regulations.
3. **Upland bird quota hunt dates were pending at press time. Visit fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549 for the latest information.**
4. Pheasant quota hunts, either sex, limit two, Dec. 4, 5 and 6; Open Dec. 7, only to drawn pheasant quota hunters, either sex, limit three; Open Dec. 8-31, either sex, daily limit three.
5. This WMA (not including the Booth and Bailey tracts) is closed to public use Sept. 10-13 and Sept. 24-27, except for those registered to participate in quota fox hunting field trials on those days.
6. Open Nov. 1 – Dec. 31.
7. Open Oct. 1 – Dec. 31.
8. Crossbows legal during entire archery season, except closed during the open youth hunt.
9. An open youth hunt is held on the first Saturday in November for two consecutive days and is limited to youths ages 15 and under. Check in and check out required. Limit of two deer, only one of which may be antlered. Closed to all other hunting during the two-day event.
10. Firearms prohibited for deer and elk hunting on three areas near the dam: 1) the area extending eastward from the drainage of Glade Branch, along the north edge of the lake, to the No Hunting Area surrounding Rocky Knob Recreation Area and enclosing all property from the WMA boundary downslope to the lake edge, and 2) the islands visible from the state park boat ramp at the end of Ky 2275, and 3) the area ex-



tending eastward along the southern edge of the lake from the drainage of Shoal Branch to the No Hunting Area surrounding the dam and ranger station, and extending downslope to the edge of the lake.

11. Hunters shall not use a modern firearm or in-line muzzleloading gun. Hunters shall use only open or iron sights on any weapon.
12. Centerfire rifles and handguns may not be used to take deer.
13. **Open under statewide regulations for 10 consecutive days starting the second Saturday in November.**
14. **Firearms are prohibited for deer, bear, and elk hunting on two areas near the dam: 1) on the east side of the dam, the area extending southward from the dam to old Shoreline Campground No. 1, and 2) on the west side of the dam, the area extending westward from the dam along Ky 302 to Terry Boat Ramp.**
15. Only portions of these public hunting areas within the bear zone are open to bear hunting.
16. Portions open during quota elk hunts to persons who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit.
17. Hunters may use a crossbow during the

archery season.

18. Open for early muzzleloader season only.
19. Hunters shall not use any type of breech-loading firearm.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

* **Clay WMA:** Area closed to all hunting except archery deer hunting and the quota pheasant hunt for four consecutive days starting on the first Friday in December. **A regulation change that would close the area to all other small game hunting until 2 p.m. on upland bird quota hunt dates was pending legislative approval when this guide went to press. Visit fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549 for the latest information.**

* **Czar Hunting Access:** Area includes Beech Fork, Czar and Bow tracts. Special landowner area requirements and restrictions apply. Email mintha@czarky.net for further requirements before accessing the area.

* **Dewey Lake WMA:** A deer hunter shall not take an antlered deer with an outside antler spread of less than 15 inches at any time.

* **Grayson Lake WMA:** Some portions of the WMA are closed to all hunting or have special weapons restrictions; see online guide for details.

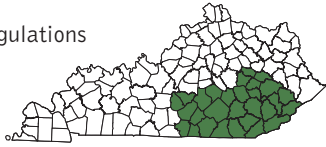
* **Paintsville Lake WMA:** A deer hunter shall not take an antlered deer with an outside antler spread of less than 15 inches.

* **South Shore WMA:** Closed to all hunting and public access November 15 – January 15, except open for waterfowl and dove hunting when statewide seasons are open.

* **Furbearer:** Trapping requires permission. Obtain permission from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling the WMA office. Night hunting for coyotes may be prohibited on some areas.

SOUTHEAST REGION PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

- Open under statewide regulations
- Closed
- Quota hunt
- # Open with exception(s)



Deer - Archery/ Crossbow	Deer - Muzzleloader	Deer - Modern Gun	Deer - Youth Firearm	Squirrel	Rabbit	Grouse	Quail	Turkey	Furbearer*	Bear	Elk Quota	Other
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MAP # and AREA NAME	PHONE	Deer - Archery/ Crossbow	Deer - Muzzleloader	Deer - Modern Gun	Deer - Youth Firearm	Squirrel	Rabbit	Grouse	Quail	Turkey	Furbearer*	Bear	Elk Quota	Other
1 Asher Hunting Access Area	(606) 269-8164	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	10	■
2 Beaver Creek WMA	(606) 376-8083	■	■	■	■	■	1	2	1	■	■	■	10	■
3 Big South Fork NRRRA*	(606) 376-5073	■	■	■	■	■	1	2	1	■	■	■	10	■
4 Cane Creek WMA	(606) 376-8083	■	■	■	■	■	1	2	1	■	■	■	■	■
5 Cedar Creek Lake WMA	(270) 465-5039	■	■	■	■	■	1	■	■	■	7	■	■	■
6 Dennis-Gray WMA	(270) 465-5039	4	■	■	■	■	1	■	1	■	■	■	■	■
7 Dix River WMA	(270) 465-5039	■	■	■	■	■	1	2	1	■	■	■	■	■
8 Green River Lake WMA*	(270) 465-5039	4	■	■	■	■	1	■	1	■	■	■	■	6
9 Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA	(606) 269-8164	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	10	■
10 Hidden Valley Training Area*	(606) 878-9595	■	■	■	■	8	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
11 Lake Cumberland WMA	(606) 376-8083	■	■	■	■	■	1	2	1	■	■	5	10	■
12 Mill Creek WMA	(606) 878-9595	■	■	■	■	■	1	2	1	■	■	■	■	■
13 Mud Camp Creek WMA	(270) 465-5039	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
14 Paul Van Booven WMA	(606) 878-9595	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	9/10	■
15 Ping-Sinking Valley WMA	(606) 878-9595	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	5	■	■
16 R. F. Tarter WMA	(270) 465-5039	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
17 Redbird WMA	(606) 878-9595	■	■	3	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	10	■
18 Robinson Forest WMA (excludes main block)	(606) 878-9595	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	5	10	■
A Daniel Boone National Forest	(859) 745-3100	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	5	10	■

OPEN UNDER STATEWIDE REGULATIONS for all species in accordance with the county in which they are located:

- 19.** Ashland WMA (606-878-9595), **20.** Boone Forestlands WMA (606-269-8164), **21.** Buck Creek WMA (606-878-9595), **22.** Buckhorn Lake WMA (606-878-9595), **23.** Burchell-Beech Creek WMA (606-878-9595), **24.** Carr Creek Lake WMA (606-269-8164), **25.** Corrigan WMA (606-269-8164), **26.** Cranks Creek WMA (606-269-8164), **27.** Dale Hollow Lake WMA (270-465-5039) **28.** Elk Forest WMA (606-269-8164), **29.** Fortner-Davis WMA (606-269-8164), **30.** Jefferson National Forest (888-265-0019), **31.** Kentenia State Forest (502-564-4496), **32.** Kentucky Fuel Corporation WMA (606-269-8164), **33.** Kentucky Ridge Forest WMA (606-269-8164)/Kentucky Ridge State Forest (502-564-4496), **34.** Martins Fork Lake WMA (606-269-8164), **35.** Martins Fork WMA & State Natural Area (606-269-8164), **36.** Shillalah Creek WMA (606-269-8164), **37.** Stone Mountain WMA & State Natural Area (606-269-8164), **38.** Wells Hunting Access Area (606-435-6229).

EXCEPTIONS

- Open Nov. 1 – Dec. 31.
- Open Oct. 1 – Dec. 31.
- Open under statewide regulations for two consecutive days starting the second Saturday in November.
- A deer hunter shall not take an antlered deer with an outside spread of less than 15 inches.
- Only portions of these public hunting areas within the bear zone are open to bear hunting.
- Pheasant quota hunts, either sex, limit two, Nov. 20, 21 and 22; Open Nov. 23, only to drawn pheasant quota hunters, either sex, limit three; Open Nov. 24 – Dec. 31, either sex, daily limit three.
- Furbearer trapping open with permission; Closed for furbearer hunting.
- Open from Sept. 1 through the last day of February.

9. Archery and crossbow only.

10. Portions open during quota elk hunts to persons who possess the appropriate elk hunting permit.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

* Big South Fork NRRRA:

Open for wild pigs from the first Saturday in September through the end of February, but a

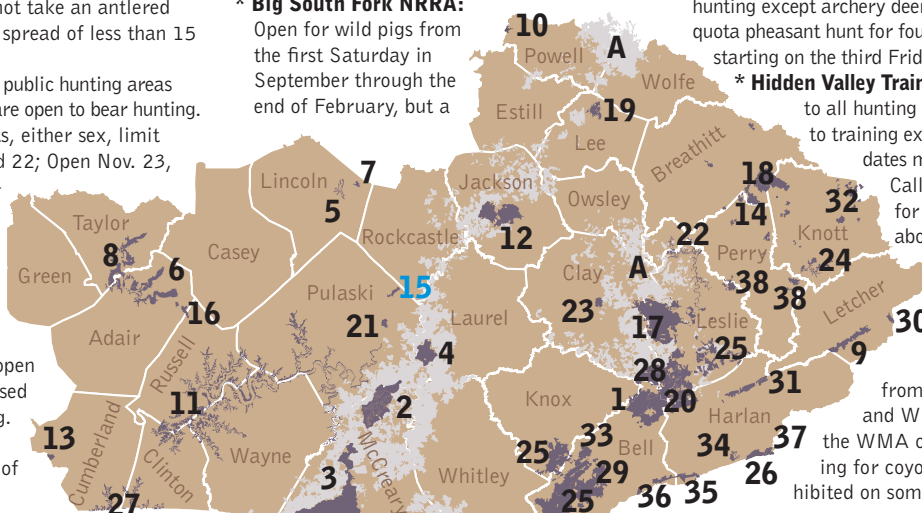
National Park Service hog hunting permit is required at times. Call for specific dates. Permits may be purchased at park visitor centers or online at www.nps.gov/biso/plan-your-visit/hog-hunting.htm.

* **Green River Lake WMA:** Area closed to all hunting except archery deer hunting and the quota pheasant hunt for four consecutive days starting on the third Friday in November.

* **Hidden Valley Training Area:** Closed to all hunting Sept. 18-20 due to training exercises; Additional dates may be scheduled.

Call (606) 878-9595 for more information about training dates.

* **Furbearer:** Trapping requires permission. Obtain permission from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling the WMA office. Night hunting for coyotes may be prohibited on some areas.





KENTUCKY HUNTING SEASONS 2015-2016

DEER	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Modern Gun	Nov. 14-29, 2015 (either sex)		Nov. 14-23, 2015 (either sex)	Nov. 14-23, 2015 (antlered only)
Archery	Sept. 5, 2015 - Jan. 18, 2016 (either sex)			Sept. 5, 2015 - Jan. 18, 2016 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 17-18, Nov. 14-23 and Dec. 12-17)
Crossbow	Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2015 (either sex)			Oct 1-18 and Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2015 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 17-18, Nov. 14-23, Dec. 12-17)
Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-18 and Dec. 12-20, 2015 (either sex)			Oct. 17-18 and Dec. 12-17, 2015 (antlered only) and Dec. 18-20, 2015 (either sex)
Youth-only Firearms	Oct. 10-11, 2015 (either sex)			
Free Youth Weekend	Dec. 26-27, 2015 (either sex)			

QUOTA ELK	Firearms	Archery	Crossbow
Bull (antlered)	Week 1: Oct. 3-9, 2015 Week 2: Oct. 10-16, 2015	Sept. 19 - Oct. 2, Oct. 17 - Dec. 11, Dec. 19, 2015 - Jan. 1, Jan. 9-18, 2016	Sept. 26 - Oct. 2, Oct. 17- Dec. 11, Dec. 19-25, 2015
Cow (antlerless)	Week 1: Dec. 12-18, 2015 Week 2: Jan. 2-8, 2016	Oct. 17 - Dec. 11, Dec. 19, 2015 - Jan. 1 and Jan. 9-18, 2016	Oct. 17 - Dec. 11 and Dec. 19-25, 2015
Youth-only Quota (either sex)	All seasons as noted above		

BEAR	Chase-only	Archery/Crossbow	Firearms	Quota Hunt w/Dogs	Youth-only
	Aug. 1-31, 2015 and during Quota Hunt with Dogs	Oct. 24-30, 2015	Dec. 12-14, 2015	Nov. 28-29 and Dec. 19-20, 2015	Dec. 26-27, 2015

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 24-30 and Dec. 5-11, 2015	Sept. 5, 2015 - Jan. 18, 2016	Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2015

SMALL GAME	Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel	Aug. 15 - Nov. 13 and Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016	One-half hour before sunrise, Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016
Rabbit	Eastern Zone Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 - Jan. 31, 2016	One-half hour before sunrise, Nov. 16, 2015 - Jan. 31, 2016
	Western Zone Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 10, 2016	One-half hour before sunrise, Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 10, 2016
Quail	Eastern Zone Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 - Jan. 31, 2016	No trapping
	Western Zone Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 10, 2016	
Grouse	Nov. 1-13 and Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016	
Falconry	Sept. 1, 2015 - Mar. 30, 2016	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 26, 2015 - Jan. 1, 2016	

FURBEARERS	Hunting	Trapping
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 1, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016, day or night (exceptions apply)	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)	
Bobcat	One half-hour before sunrise Nov. 28, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only	
River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 16, 2015 - Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 26, 2015 - Jan. 1, 2016	

NOTE: Seasons on Wildlife Management Areas and other public hunting lands not managed by Kentucky Fish & Wildlife may be different from those below. Go online to fw.ky.gov for details.

OTHER SPECIES	Hunting
Crow	One half-hour before sunrise Sept. 1 - Nov. 7, 2015 and Jan. 4 - Feb. 29, 2016, daylight hours only
Bullfrog	Noon May 15 - Midnight Oct. 31, 2015
Groundhog	Year-round
Turtles	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT of FISH and WILDLIFE RESOURCES

1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov

GREGORY K. JOHNSON
Commissioner



2015 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2015 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2014 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. This handout is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improving their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at fw.ky.gov or by obtaining copies of the 2015 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2015 Fishing and Boating Guide.

To locate fishing access sites in Kentucky, visit our website and click on "Fish" and then "Where to Fish". You will be able to search for your favorite water bodies and get directions to all major boat launches and access sites.

Opening day of the 2015 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting good store, get online at fw.ky.gov, or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2015 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast was partially financed through funds provided by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.



New and Expanding Fisheries in 2015

- Rainbow trout will now be stocked in Maysville-Mason County Lake (Mason County), the 6-acre lake at the Kentucky River WMA Boone Tract (Henry County) and West Hickman Creek where it runs through Veteran's Park (Fayette County). See the Trout Waters section of the 2015 Fishing and Boating Guide for specific stocking months.
- The new lower section of Hatchery Creek at the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is scheduled to be completed in 2015. Follow its progress on the KDFWR website (fw.ky.gov).
- Muskie were stocked into Dewey Lake in 2014. While the lake is not slated to receive annual stockings of this species, KDFWR will add muskellunge when excess fish are available from state hatcheries. Muskie stocked in 2014 should reach the 30-inch harvestable size in 2017.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

Make sure you check out the new Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet located at the end of this publication. For those looking for a quick answer to where the best fishing can be found for each species, the Cheat Sheet is your guide. The Cheat Sheet lets you know which lakes are forecasted to provide good to excellent fishing for each of your favorite fish species. Just look up the species you are interested in and then see which lakes have a check mark next to them. These are the lakes which will provide the best chance for a memorable fishing trip for that species. The Cheat Sheet is located on two pages, so if you don't see the species you are interested in on the first page; make sure to check the following page.

New Up-and-Comers

Several lakes and rivers have shown improvements in their fisheries in the last year. You might try and get in on the action at the following water bodies:

- Largemouth bass at Grayson Lake (Carter and Elliott counties).
- Bluegill at Corinth Lake (Grant County), Cumberland Lake (Russell, Wayne, Clinton and Pulaski counties), Martin's Fork Lake (Harlan County) and Metcalfe County Lake (Metcalfe County).
- Crappie at Buckhorn Lake (Leslie and Perry counties), Cave Run Lake (Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties), Cumberland Lake (Russell, Wayne, Clinton and Pulaski counties) and Fishtrap Lake (Pike County).
- Rainbow trout on the Cumberland Tailwater (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton and Monroe counties).
- Brown trout on the Cumberland Tailwater (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton and Monroe counties).
- Redear sunfish at Marion County Lake (Marion County).
- Hybrid striped bass at Grayson Lake (Carter and Elliott counties).
- Rock bass on the main stem and north fork of Elkhorn Creek (Franklin and Scott counties).
- Walleye at Cumberland Lake (Russell, Wayne, Clinton and Pulaski counties).

Late Winter/Early Spring Fishing Frenzy

As warm winds begin to flow over Kentucky, put your new fishing license to good use by trying a few early spring fishing hot spots. In March, fish activity begins in the smaller bodies of water such as farm ponds and smaller public lakes as water temperatures reach the 50's. These smaller, shallower bodies of water warm quicker than reservoirs in spring. Late winter and early spring may be the best time of the year to catch big fish.

Trophy largemouth bass, especially females, are at their heaviest weight of the entire year during late winter and early spring. Female bass feed heavily during this time to provide fuel for the upcoming spawn. Farm ponds and public lakes are prime spots for early spring largemouth bass fishing before the larger bodies of water warm enough for bass to feed.

A few of the best lakes for catching trophy bass in spring are Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake and Lake Malone in western Kentucky along with Cedar Creek, Kincaid and Guist Creek lakes in central Kentucky. Greenbo Lake in northeast Kentucky and Wood Creek Lake in southeast Kentucky both produced multiple state record largemouth bass in the past. Woods Creek Lake is the home of the current 13-pound, 10.4 ounce state record. Barren River Lake in west-central Kentucky, Lake Beshear and Lake Mauzy in west Kentucky along with Lake Herrington and Green River lakes in central Kentucky also offer excellent early spring bass fishing. Dewey Lake, Fishtrap and Fishpond lakes give east Kentucky anglers a great shot for an early spring trophy largemouth bass.

If you are after smallmouth bass, head to Green River, Kentucky, Cumberland, Laurel River, Dale Hollow and Fishtrap lakes for a good chance at catching the smallmouth bass of a lifetime in late winter and early spring. Streams also provide excellent fishing for smallmouth bass in early spring throughout central and eastern Kentucky. Adult fish migrate from their winter habitat in deep, slow moving holes in the lower sections of streams to spawning areas in smaller tributary streams. Elkhorn Creek, South Fork, Licking River and several upper Kentucky, Green and Barren River tributaries offer the best spring fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass.

Slab crappie are ready to be caught, beginning in late winter, at many reservoirs in central and western Kentucky. Catches of crappie over 12 inches are not uncommon at Barkley and Kentucky lakes during this time. Black crappie move into shallow water well before the spawning season in early March, so start early for these fish. Other good bets for crappie include Herrington, Cumberland, Dewey, Rough, Nolin, Barren and Buckhorn lakes as well as Ohio River embayments.

Excellent white bass fishing can be found during the early spring in the upper sections of reservoirs such as Barkley, Cave Run, Nolin River and Herrington lakes. The Kentucky, Green and Ohio rivers offer excellent spring white bass fishing.

During late winter, sauger and walleye fishing peaks in tailwaters below dams on the Ohio, lower Kentucky, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. Lake Cumberland, Laurel River and Carr Creek lakes possess excellent walleye fisheries.

If you are interested in muskellunge, they move in spring to shallow shoreline structure and headwater areas in search of warmer water at Cave Run, Green, and Buckhorn lakes. Remember, a 36-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit is in effect for muskellunge at these three reservoirs.

Do not forget to take advantage of trout waters such as seasonal catch-and-release trout streams, lakes stocked with trout in winter months, Fishing in Neighborhood (FINs) lakes stocked with trout and the Cumberland River tailwater below Lake Cumberland in late winter and early spring. Trout bite willingly in cold water. Expect fishing to improve on the Cumberland Tailwater now that the construction on Wolf Creek Dam is completed.

Try these late winter and early spring hot spots. Not only will they cure your cabin fever, but you might catch the fish of your lifetime.

2015 FISHING FORECAST

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The fishing forecast is based on 2014 fish population surveys, planned fish stockings, and projections for 2015.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER	45,600 acres	(Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties)
Blue catfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 10-20 pounders with the occasional 50+ pounder. Best fishing is during late spring and summer along deep river channels. Look for good flow in the lake for best fishing conditions. Blue catfish can be caught year-round in the tailwater.
Bluegill	Excellent	Good numbers of fish up to 9 inches; the best fishing comes in May on sand or gravel spawning beds. Crickets and worms fished under a cork during the spawn is a great option. Fish move deeper as the water warms in summer.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Best fishing is during May along rocky banks and during summer along the main river channel and adjacent flats. Try stink-bait in shallow water in the spring. Channel catfish can also be caught year-round in the tailwater.
Crappie	Good	Barkley Lake is a little tougher fishing for crappie than Kentucky Lake, though the numbers of crappie are good. Many fishermen are changing tactics, casting or trolling light jigs and roadrunners year-round.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Shallow water fishing for spawning bass can be amazing in the spring around button ball bushes with floating baits, buzzbaits, spinnerbaits, and plastic creature baits. During post spawn most bass move to drop-offs in the main lake and mouths of the bays. Try fishing Carolina rigs, jigs, and crankbaits in deeper water when there is good current moving through the reservoir. During summertime, fishing shallow near structure can also be effective, particularly at dawn or dusk. In fall and winter, bass move into the bays to feed on shad.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of 8-10 inch fish with trophies up to 12 inches. Prime fishing occurs in late April and throughout May as fish are spawning. Fish can be found in areas with gravel substrate and vegetation. Redear generally spawn a bit deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Poor	Population consists of low numbers of harvestable-size (>14.0 inch) fish. Many fish are caught trolling deep diving crankbaits near secondary channel breaks during the early summer. Sauger can also be caught while fishing for catfish along the main river channel. Fair fishing is found in the tailwaters.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass make up a small portion of the total bass population but are common in certain habitats. Fishing is best around rocky shorelines near deep water, main lake points, and the Canal during late winter and early spring with suspending jerk baits.
Striped bass	Good	The tailwater fishing is best for consistent catches, but the lake produces good catches as well. Fish deep main channel ledges near bridges and other places with current. For the best luck try trolling crankbaits or fishing vertically with large jigs. Good trophy potential.
White bass	Good	Fishing success has been decent the last few years. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface during summer and fall. If you can't find them working the surface, fish deeper along ledges on the main lake with a spoon or inline spinner. Trolling the ledges with lighter colored crankbaits can be a lot of fun, especially for children and inexperienced anglers. Similar to striped bass, good fishing occurs in the tailwaters.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER (from Barren River Lake dam to Green River confluence)		
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Barren River Lake tailwater area hybrid fishing is best, especially during or following periods of heavy lake discharges. Good fishing also below instream dams at Bowling Green and Greencastle.
Muskellunge	Good	Target mouth of feeder creeks and around wood structure or other current breaks from dam to Green River confluence. Stocked annually.
Smallmouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 12-inch fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Fishing best from dam to mouth of Drakes Creek. Target areas above and below riffle/shoal areas and rocky banks in heads of pools.
Spotted bass	Fair	Found throughout Barren River. Fish slower moving pools with rocky banks and logs. Fish spinnerbaits and crankbaits in the spring and early summer. Use buzzbaits during summer.
Walleye/Sauger	Fair/Good	Fishing best below instream dams (Barren River Lake, Greencastle and Bowling Green) especially during December – March. Good-sized walleye (15-25 inch) available. Sauger have been stocked since 2010.

BARREN RIVER (above lake upstream from Long Creek confluence)		
Bass	Fair	Largemouth, spotted and smallmouth all found here in fair numbers and good sizes. Largemouth best below 100 bridge; smallmouth best above Coruth or Dunns ford/Celsor Road.
Channel catfish	Good	Best action during early onset of rising water conditions anytime of year, but especially during summer months.
White bass, hybrids and yellow bass	Fair	Spawning runs still present in late March – mid-April. Use small crankbaits and inline spinners for whites and yellows. Use bigger swimbaits and spinners for hybrids.
Walleye	Fair/Good	Males hanging near riffle areas starting mid-February until early April. Fish deepest section of pools rest of the year with bottom bumping spinners, blade baits or curly tailed grubs.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER LAKE 10,000 acres (Allen and Barren counties)		
Summertime (mid- June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 15-18 feet.		
Bluegill (sunfish)	Good	Good numbers of 6–8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back of coves during the spring and fall. Fish deeper in the summer near cove mouths and along bluff walls near laydowns or standing timber.
Catfish	Excellent	Good populations of channel and flathead catfish present with good numbers of larger individuals. Fishing best near creek channels and at night. Blue catfish have been stocked annually since 2010, with some of these already over 25 inches. Fish for blues with live or cut bait in open water areas with jugs or rod and reel.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of larger crappie (10-11 inches; black and white) available; however, for best numbers of whites fish winter and early spring. Crappie mix remains about 60-40 ratio (black crappie to white crappie). Good numbers of both are available due to good year classes/spawns of 2010, 2011 and 2013. Target shallower water to find black crappie in spring and early summer. Summer and winter fishing is best around deeper structure such as attractor/brush sites or near creek channel.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Overall numbers are good with large fish (20-inch plus) available. Spring fishing best in headwater areas with spinners, crankbaits, and curly tailed jigs. Target main lake (around islands in mid-/lower lake) early in the morning and at dusk in the summer and fall with crankbaits and spoons as schools appear throughout the lake. 200,000 stocked annually since 2000. Higher numbers of 18-20 inch fish from elevated stocking rate in 2013.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers overall and good numbers of 15-inch plus and 20-inch plus fish.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density population overall; however, quality/trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Target lower 1/3 of the lake near the dam, fishing rock outcroppings and rocky transition areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Lower density population overall; however, quality fish (15-inch plus) available. Bridge pylons and bluff walls with rock slides good places to target spots.
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain low. Best opportunity is during spawning run in late March to mid April with in-line spinners, small jigs and small crankbaits in Barren River, Peter, Skaggs and Beaver Creeks above the lake.
Yellow bass	Excellent	Abundant and willing to bite. Most fish are 7-9 inches in length. Bite readily on small jigs, spinners and minnows. Bridge pylons excellent areas to target for summertime bite.
BEAVER LAKE 158 acres (Anderson County)		
Bluegill	Good	High numbers of 6-8 inch fish; \geq 8.0 fish present.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; fish over 15 inches common. Fall fishing good in shallows in coves.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Small population; good numbers of fish between 8-10 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass up to 15 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	7-9 inch fish available around vegetation; good numbers of 10-11 inch fish possible. Overall, numbers are down due to the significant reduction of aquatic vegetation in lake.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BENJY KINMAN LAKE	88 acres	(Henry County)
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 5-7 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Channel catfish present.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish between 8-10-inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of bass present; excellent potential for quality-size fish over 20 inches. Trophy-size fish (≥ 23 inch) are present. Note: largemouth bass are catch and release only.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers of 6-8 inch fish; key in on few areas where aquatic vegetation is present.
BESHEAR LAKE	760 acres	(Caldwell and Christian counties)
Blue catfish	Fair	Blue catfish are being stocked every other year. Their population is doing fair, with good growth. Some already measure over 25 inches and weigh over 5 pounds.
Bluegill	Fair	Numerous small fish with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Boat fishing is the most popular method, but some bank fishing opportunities are also available.
Channel catfish	Excellent	High numbers of 10-15 inch channel catfish in the population. Channel catfish are stocked every other year at 10-12 inches. This is an underutilized fishery. Most anglers fishing for catfish use jug lines or noodles. Catfish are one of the reasons people go to Lake Beshear to fish.
Crappie	Fair	Numerous fish in the 6-8 inch range, with an occasional 10 incher. Best fishing during spring in areas of aquatic vegetation and around woody structure. The population is considered stunted; therefore it is ok to harvest the small crappie.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	One of the main reason anglers fish Lake Beshear. The bass population is dominated by 12-18 inch fish. Best fishing during spring when fish move to shallow water, along the water willow and lily pads. Try fishing the edges of these weeds with a pearl colored fluke using a short jerk retrieve, or use a white spinnerbait. Worms, creature baits, and other soft plastics can also be effective during the spawn. In late afternoon, or on cloudy days, try top water baits. During summertime, as temperatures heat up, bass often suspend near deep water ledges. These fish can be caught on dropshot rigs or long lined crankbaits and jerkbaits.
BOLTZ LAKE	92 acres	(Grant County)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year. Good numbers of channel catfish over 12 inch size limit present. Low numbers of blue catfish; last stocking of catchable-size blue catfish in 2013. 25-inch plus blue catfish possible.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant; majority of fish between 6-8 inches; larger fish possible due to recent removal of smaller crappie in spring of 2012.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Decent numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); some potential for bass ≥ 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Low numbers of 6-8 inch fish available around vegetation.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BRIGGS LAKE	18 acres (Logan County)	
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of 7-inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Crappie	Fair	Large fish present; fish laydown trees, stakebeds and brushpiles in late winter and early spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Good numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Larger fish very shallow in early spring; then move to thermocline depth.

BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER		1,250 acres (Leslie and Perry counties)
Bluegill	Good	Good size distribution and very good numbers; larger fish 7-8 inches. Upper lake areas and heads of coves hold best numbers during summer pool. Shallow mudflats in main lake areas can hold large congregations of fish on spawning beds.
Catfish	Excellent	High numbers of channel catfish with good recruitment of young fish each year. Some flathead catfish available up to 40-50 pounds. Tailwater provides additional good fishery.
Crappie	Good	Very good numbers of keeper fish in 2014. This will continue in 2015 with most larger fish from 10-13 inches. July and August can provide some very good fishing over shallow mud flats adjacent to main lake channel. Try trolling bait tipped jigs or small crankbaits over the flats. Also, late September/early October during drawdown to winter pool can be very good in the same locations.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth rates of young bass and fair numbers of 15-17 inch fish with good numbers for fish greater than 20 inches. Spring fishing success can be very good if high water events do not occur.
Muskellunge	Fair	Approximately 15% of fish are over 36 inches and 23% over 30 inches. Overall numbers are good, but expect to contend with many smaller fish. Fishing can be difficult for periods following flood events. January-March fish will congregate in the lower lake and near the dam. Good fishing at Trace Branch area in July and August. September will find many large fish on edges of shallow water weedbeds in backs of coves. Bank fishing opportunities are good at the tailwater in March and October.
White bass	Poor	Some successful recruitment of young fish in 2013. There are 3 different year classes present, but all are in low numbers. Fish range primarily from 8-15 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BULLOCK PEN LAKE 134 acres (Grant County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are 6 inches or less, but are abundant.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; good numbers over the 12 inch size limit and potential for larger fish (≥ 20 inches). Catchable-size blue catfish stocked each year; 25-inch plus fish possible. Flathead catfish present.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant population of small-sized fish (mostly 6-7 inches); few larger fish are present.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit). Excellent potential for quality-size fish and bass over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Very low numbers.
Saugeye	Fair	Second year of stocking was completed in 2014; saugeye up to the 15 inches are present. A few saugeye should grow to harvestable size in 2015 (15-inch size limit).
White bass	Poor/Fair	Small population of large fish in the 14-17 inch range.
CARPENTER LAKE 68 acres (Daviess County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good number of 6-7 inch bluegill, but few over 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Excellent growth rates produce good numbers of 15-20 inch and larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Several smaller (8-11 inch) fish in the population, but the number of 12-20 inch fish is decent and holding steady.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Most 7-8 inches with a few 9-11 inch fish.
CARR CREEK LAKE 710 acres (Knott County)		
Hydrilla was documented in Carr Creek Lake for the first time in 2008. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species within the lake and between lakes by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Bluegill	Poor	Good numbers of small bluegill present. Shallow water areas in creek arms provide good fishing in spring and early summer. Larger fish will hold around weedbed edges in summer. Fishing pier near ramp at marina holds fish in submerged brush when lake is at summer pool.
Crappie	Fair	This fishery continues to improve in numbers and may actually prove to be "Good" in 2015. Larger black crappie from 9-12 inches and white crappie from 10-16 inches. Deadfall trees and submerged brush piles will congregate large numbers of fish during most of the year. Research and stocking program with white crappie is ongoing.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of large fish over 20 inches. March-early April anglers have very good fishing success for big fish. Usually poor recruitment of small fish and stocking of fingerlings occurs each year.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low numbers but fish sampled up to 20 inches.
Spotted bass	Excellent	Best numbers are concentrated in lower and mid lake; a few large fish up to 18 inches; excellent numbers through 16 inches.
Walleye	Excellent	Very high numbers of fish from 15-26 inches; a few fish up to 28 inches. March through May are good months to try during day or night. Standing timber will hold suspended fish in summer as well as deeper open water areas with schools of alewife that walleye will suspend beneath.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CAVE RUN LAKE	8,270 acres	(Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties)
		Baring high water conditions in the spring, beds of aquatic vegetation should have similar densities as previous years. Historically, Zilpo flats are covered with weed growth and fishing has been good in these areas for largemouth bass and muskellunge. Check out KDFWR website (fw.ky.gov) for information on new habitat structures placed in the lake.
Bluegill	Good	Widespread within the lake, most 7 inches long or less, but it is not unusual to catch a few larger fish. Bluegill can be found in the back of coves or other quickly warming shallow water areas in the spring and on department placed or natural brush piles later in the year.
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish up to two feet long along with a few larger sizes. Many are found along shallow rocky shoreline areas in early May-June where they seek cover in rock piles and submerged logs to spawn. Later they tend to be found in deeper water. Although not as plentiful, some trophy sized flathead catfish are found in the lake.
Crappie	Excellent	In recent years anglers have been experiencing outstanding crappie fishing. The lake continues to hold nice numbers of 2 to 3 year old fish and they should continue to push through the population quickly, maintaining the good numbers of larger fish for a few more years. During spring months look for crappie in the shallows near shore; in the summer around department placed and natural brush piles; and in the fall in the riverine portions of the lake.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	The North Fork and Licking River portions of the lake (upper reaches) generally hold the larger fish. In these areas try fishing the rocky banks warmed by the morning sun in April and May. For the rest of the lake, fish the edges and pockets of the weed beds, fallen trees and woody structure within embayments. Recent electrofishing catch rates for fish over 15 and 20 inches have been the highest ever recorded on Cave Run Lake. This should continue into 2015 and should provide excellent fishing for larger fish. Note: 13-16 inch protective slot limit.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Excellent angling continues with this fishery. Trophy fish can be found primarily in the spawning month of April in the backs of the large coves or in the fall months of September and October in association with gentle sloping gravely banks or near channel drop offs. Note: 36 inch minimum size, one fish creel limit.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	While still uncommon, smallmouth have been picking up in recent years. They are found primarily off rocky points or shoreline in the lower lake. Across from the Twin Knobs beach, the slipped bank area at the back of Scott's Creek and along the 801 Rocks can produce a few fish. Note: 18-inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous within the middle and lower main lake shoreline; become less common within the upper reaches of the lake. Most less than 13 inches long.
White bass	Poor	Numbers have taken a hit due to the 2013 die off. Smaller fish are present in the lake, but in low numbers. The white bass should rebound in 2015, but catches will be low. Note: No more than 5 white bass in the daily creel limit may be greater than 15-inches long.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CEDAR CREEK LAKE	784 acres	(Lincoln County)
Bluegill	Good	Abundant numbers, although most are less than 7 inches. Bank anglers can choose from several designated fishing access areas for family fishing.
Channel catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 12-18 inch fish with a few over 20 inches.
Crappie	Good	The crappie population continues to improve as larger crappie (>10 inches) are becoming more common. Try jigs tipped with minnows around submerged brush, particularly in late fall.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Wide range of sizes available for anglers, with a high density of 16-20 inch fish. Cedar Creek Lake remains a great place to catch a large bass. Note: a trophy regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish creel limit, is in effect on this lake.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked in late fall and early spring to provide cool weather fishery.
Redear sunfish	Good	Less numerous than bluegills but good numbers of 7-10 inch fish available. Try mealworms around vegetation for best fishing.

CHENOA LAKE	35 acres	(Bell County)
Bluegill	Fair	Fairly numerous 6-7 inchers although the blanket of vegetation in upper end of lake limits their accessibility.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked annually. Good bank fishing along north side of lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good range of sizes with a few over 17 inches. Try jerking surface plugs through mats of watershed pads in spring and summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-9 inch fish, with a few exceeding 10 inches. Meal worms and wax worms drifted under a bobber works well around brush and aquatic vegetation.

CLEAR CREEK LAKE	40 acres	(Bath County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6 to 7 inch bluegill are present with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair population with a few fish over 20 inches in the samples. Anglers should focus around the dam and the standing timber at the back of the lake.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-8 inch fish. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.

CORINTH LAKE	96 acres	(Grant County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish; ≥ 8 inch fish present. Numbers of quality-size fish continue to increase from shad eradication.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	Low numbers; most fish between 8 to 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); excellent potential for bass between 15-20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Increasing numbers of fish greater than 7 inches; numbers of quality-size fish continue to increase from shad eradication.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE	50,250 acres	(Russell, Wayne, Clinton, and Pulaski counties)
The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are now defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.		
Bluegill	Good	Bluegills are fairly abundant and some are excellent size (>8 inches). Try crickets in coves and cuts for good early summer action or spinner rigs with half nightcrawlers or redworms.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Excellent population of 2-5 pound channels with some larger fish in the mix. Nightcrawlers still fished or slowly trolled on main lake flats and cuts during late summer or fall should pick up some quality fish.
Crappie	Excellent	Best size range in many years, with large crappie (12-14 inches) fairly abundant. The flooded willows and sycamore trees should benefit the crappie population for the foreseeable future. Try jigs or minnows in headwaters of the lake (near mouth of Laurel and Rockcastle Rivers) in early spring for some excellent fishing. Fall fishing should also be good in major tributaries.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good density of 14-17 inch fish; some larger fish are available. Creek arms in upper lake are slightly better for largemouth than lower lake arms.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 14-18 inch fish present with moderate density of 18-inch plus fish. Try jigs or float-n-fly techniques for good winter fishing.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of 12-15 inch fish; some larger ones are available. Found throughout lake, although more common in lower half.
Striped bass	Good	The striped bass population continues to improve and anglers can expect to catch slightly larger fish in 2015. The 2009 year class (mostly 26-30 inch fish) should provide the bulk of the striped bass fishery but some larger fish are in the population. The boosted stockings in 2013 appear to have created a good year class, which bodes well for future years. The 22-inch size limit remains in effect, and anglers should have no trouble catching their limit.
Walleye	Good	Walleye numbers have rebounded nicely from the 2010 lows and size range has modestly improved. Anglers should find plenty of fish from 17-22 inches, but comparatively few larger fish. Best fishing in spring is at night on surface baits. Night crawler rigs and deep diving crank baits trolled 20-35 feet deep along main lake shoreline work well during summer and fall.
White bass	Fair	Population level remains low but size is good. Upper half of lake is best for numbers. For best success, try headwater areas in early spring.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE TAILWATER (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties)		
Brook trout	Fair	Annual stockings continue in the tailwater. Most fish range from 10-14 inches, but some larger fish are present. The state record remains vulnerable in 2015 as brooks grow into the larger size ranges. Brook trout are aggressive feeders that bite readily on a variety of baits.
Brown trout	Good	Anglers can expect good numbers of browns up to 15 inches, and fair numbers of larger fish. The abundance of keeper fish (>20 inches) remains low but should improve in the coming years.
Rainbow trout	Good	Rainbow trout abundance is still lower than peak years, but adequate numbers of stocked fish should be available to anglers. Some of the larger fish (14-17 inches) stocked in 2013 have moved into the 18-20 inch range, but we are still a few years away from good numbers of fish in the slot (15-20 inches).
Sauger	Fair	Population tends to fluctuate yearly. Try near dam in late winter and early spring with small jigs and grubs. From mid-summer to fall, fish below Burkesville trolling shad colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs.
Striped bass	Fair/Good	Fairly low density population but good size (20 lbs +). The tailwater is the best bet for a trophy striper in the state. Fishing best from Burkesville area downstream during summer months using live bait or trolling shad colored crankbaits or swim baits.. Fish can be found throughout the tailwater during other seasons.
Walleye	Fair	Moderate numbers but good size (2-5 lb). Fish dam area in late February – mid March. From mid-summer to fall, fish below Burkesville trolling shad colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs.
White bass	Good	Best in lower sections near creek mouths during late winter – early spring.
DALE HOLLOW LAKE 4,300 acres in Kentucky (Clinton and Cumberland counties)		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of larger (16-19 inch) fish.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Consistent fishery continues to produce impressive numbers of fish over 3 lbs. Standard fare of jigs and soft plastics work well as do float-n-fly techniques in cold water months.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of quality sized fish (12-15 inches).

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
DEWEY LAKE 1,100 acres (Floyd County)		
Zebra mussels and hydrilla are present at Dewey Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of these damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Blue catfish	Good	Number of larger fish caught by anglers was down slightly in 2014. However, looking for numbers to increase in 2015 with stronger year classes moving up. Larger fish are approximately 35 inches.
Bluegill	Fair	Stable population with good growth. Large fish are around 7 inches long.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good numbers found in the lower lake during winter months. The upper lake is best in the summer months. Lots of good bank fishing access.
Crappie	Excellent	Crappie have shown good growth in recent years. Black and white crappie are present with larger white crappie to 15 inches and black crappie to 11 inches.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution; a few large fish from 20-40 pounds caught each year. Popular with ticklers/noodlers in June; try fishing shallow in September and October.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Bass continue to show good size distribution and improving numbers greater than 15 inches. March is good time to go after largest fish in shallow murky water.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fish are present through 12 inches. Some areas such as the rip-rap rock face of dam hold good fish. Increasing population of zebra mussels will improve this fishery. Try fishing bait near the bottom around weedy areas or brush. If catching bluegill, then go deeper or further off shoreline to get into redear sunfish.
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain stable. John's Creek will congregate fish in March for spawning (look for Redbud trees in bloom). Later in September look for good numbers of fish in shallow water areas in head of coves off main lake after shad.
DIX RIVER – below Herrington Lake (Garrard and Mercer counties)		
Brown Trout	Fair/Good	A few holdover fish are expected from 2014 stockings due to improved fall water conditions. One stocking (usually June) per year.
Rainbow Trout	Fair/Good	A few holdover fish are expected from 2014 stockings due to improved fall water conditions. Stocked on a monthly basis, 9 out of 12 months. Use of artificial lures or flies only from Herrington Lake Dam downstream for 2 miles.
ELKHORN CREEK – main stem and North Fork (Franklin and Scott counties)		
Catfish	Good	Large channel catfish possible in bigger pools; good numbers of “keeper” channel catfish, especially in the lower section of the main stem. Flathead catfish are present.
Largemouth bass	Good	Quality fishing found in slow moving pools in the North Fork. Note: 12-16 inch slot limit applies on main stem.
Rock Bass	Good	Many fish between 7-9 inches in main stem and in the lower North Fork section.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of smallmouth bass, especially on the main stem within the slot. Also good numbers of fish greater than 16 inches. Note: fish from 12-16 inches (slot limit) are protected in the main stem Elkhorn Creek.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ELMER DAVIS LAKE	149 acres	(Owen County)
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches; many found around beaver lodges and boat docks. Bluegill population is being negatively affected by presence of gizzard shad in the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size fish stocked last year; fish over 15 inches possible.
Crappie	Fair	Most around 9-11 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Plenty of bass under 12-15 inch protected slot limit with good numbers in the slot. Good numbers of bass greater than 15 inches. Weed beds are back. Trophy-size bass are possible.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches near weed beds or on spawning beds in upper parts of embayments. "Shellcrackers" greater than 10 inches are present. Population is being negatively affected by shad.
Warmouth	Fair	Nice-size fish present, usually around weed beds. Locally known as "redeye" or "rockbass".

FAGAN BRANCH LAKE	140 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) temperature and oxygen levels for trout in the 20-30 foot range. This zone decreases as the summer progresses. Lake is extremely clear year-round.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 7-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 11-14 inch fish. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Best fishing early and late and at night under floating lights using minnows. Fair numbers of fish, but not many larger fish (10-inch plus).
Largemouth bass	Fair	Stable population but slower growing. Fair numbers of 12-inch plus fish available.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Best fishing will be at night under floating lights from May–October due to clear water. Fish will be in 20-30 foot ranges during the summer. Fish available throughout the lake during the winter. Stocked semi-annually (November and February) since 2010.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Above average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) present. Fish edges of deep weed beds (15-20 feet) during summer.

FISHPOND LAKE	32 acres	(Letcher County)
Bluegill	Fair	Population is doing well with fish common up to 10 inches; largest individuals will be deeper than young fish; try night fishing for large fish under overhanging shoreline brush and trees. Warmouth are another panfish that are available at Fishpond and reach large sizes there.
Channel catfish	Fair	Lake received stocking in 2014; fish up to 21 inches present; night fishing may produce best results.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Very good size distribution of fish up to 24 inches and 10 pounds; water is very clear and fish are often difficult to catch during daylight hours. When rainbow trout are stocked, they are heavily targeted by bass.
Rainbow trout	Good	Fishing is best around the months when fish are stocked; stockings are in January, April, May, and October. Due to clear water, most fishing is done at night. However, when a new stocking has just occurred, the daytime fishing can also be good. A few trout will hold through the summer in most years providing fish up to 16 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
FISHTRAP LAKE and TAILWATER 1,131 acres (Pike County)		
Zebra mussels are present at Fishtrap Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Blue catfish	Fair	Blues were stocked in 2011 and 2013. Larger fish are approximately 30 inches. Fishery should continue to improve with additional stockings and increasing population of zebra mussels and the large gizzard shad population.
Bluegill	Excellent	Some large bluegill available up to 11-12 inches; May and June have been popular months for angling.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution and numbers found throughout the lake and into Levisa Fork.
Crappie	Excellent	Very good catches of larger fish in 2014 is expected again in 2015. Distribution and numbers are good through 13 inches with some larger fish available to 15-16 inches.
Flathead catfish	Excellent	Numerous large fish with good numbers found in the lake and into Levisa Fork. Numerous rocky ledges and banks around the lake provide excellent noodling opportunities when fish are spawning.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of hybrids in the lower lake in late summer and at winter pool; fair spawning run in headwaters in April. Night fishing has become popular; look for fish in the jumps from May-July; good distribution of fish through 10 pounds. This is an underutilized fishery.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers with excellent size distribution and good growth; lake is prone to rapid changes in water level effecting fish activity for periods. Ratio of keeper size bass is one of the best in eastern Kentucky.
Redear sunfish	Fair	This fishery was initiated with stockings from 2010-2013. Larger fish are approximately 10 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Make up approximately 15% of black bass; good fishing primarily in the headwaters of the lake up into the Levisa Fork River and in the lower portion of the lake from Grapevine to dam. Large individuals up to 22 inches. Excellent stream fishing in the Levisa Fork upstream of the lake.

Floyds Fork Creek 27 miles (Jefferson County)		
Largemouth bass	Poor	Small percentage of all three black bass species. Most under 10 inches. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 1 fish daily creel limit.
Rainbow trout	Good	Fish stocked 3 times per year, mainly 8-12 inches. Seasonal catch and release regulations starting in fall 2015.
Rock bass	Fair	Most fish between 6-8 inches. More numerous in the middle section of the stream.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers of smallmouth bass 9-12 inches. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 1 fish daily creel limit.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GRAYSON LAKE	1,512 acres	(Carter and Elliott counties)
Bluegill	Good	Numerous, up to 7 inches long; widespread throughout the lake as well as other kinds of panfish. Try fishing 5-6 feet deep in May and June.
Catfish	Good	Widespread throughout the lake. Fair numbers of channel and flathead catfish up to 20 inches long, some trophy-sized flathead catfish. Try fishing the middle and upper sections of the lake in early fall.
Crappie	Fair	Population samples collected in 2014 were far better than previous years. For this fish it is important to find cover or fish deep near channel edges around standing timber.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Several fish have been sampled in the 15 to 25 inch range as well as a few over 25 inches. Fish are congregated in the Bruin area in the late fall. This is a fishery that if it continues at its current pace should produce some excellent angling in the near future.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers of fish over 15.0 inches, but most still less than the minimum size limit. Most prevalent of all black bass species in the lake. Best population exists in the Bruin areas. High water helps to congregate these fish within the shoreline vegetation in the spring and the fall months; can produce feeding frenzies and high catch rates within the open water areas of Deer Creek and Bruin. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Fair	Stable population. Most fish are found in lower 2/3 of lake.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Rarely seen while sampling. The best bet is the lower portion of the lake, specifically around the Deer Creek area near the dam. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
GREEN RIVER	(dam at Rochester down to mouth at Spottsville)	
Catfish	Good	Good populations of channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Trophy-size blue and flathead catfish available. Good bets are tailwaters below locks and dams, in deeper holes, and around logs, brush, or rocks.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Fish tributary mouths, below locks and dams, and brush along bank in spring and fall with live minnows.
Striped and hybrid striped bass	Good	Stripers and hybrids congregate below dams late spring through early fall. Cast top water plugs or lead head jigs with plastic bodies into boils below dams. Shad imitation swim baits and bucktail jigs also produce well.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fish mouth of tributary streams in spring and below dams mid-spring through fall. Top water baits or lead head jigs below dams and lead head jigs or live bait at mouth of tributary streams during spring. Fish bank access area and boat ramp at mouth of Pond River late March through April.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester up to Green River Lake Dam)		
Muskellunge	Good	Fishing best at feeder creek mouths and around woody debris or other current breaks. Fishing below instream dams also good bets. Stocked annually throughout river above Rochester.
Rock bass	Excellent	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish present from dam to Munfordville.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers overall with larger fish (15-inch plus) available. Fishing best from Green River Lake dam to Mammoth Cave.
Walleye/sauger	Fair	Fishing best below Green River Lake dam area and instream dams from early winter through spring.

GREEN RIVER LAKE 8,210 acres (Taylor and Adair counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through mid-October) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 18-22 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large population with occasional 7-8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back ends of coves during spring and deep-water brush, standing timber and structure during summer for larger fish.
Channel catfish	Good/Excellent	All sizes available. Hook and line fishing best at night or when water levels are on the rise and muddy. Jug fishing good mid-summer to fall.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of quality-sized fish (15-inch plus) and better than average numbers of 18-inch plus fish.
Muskellunge	Good	Legal-sized fish (36-inch) and trophy fish (40-inch plus) numbers fair. Fall, late winter and spring excellent time to catch trophy fish. Population maintained by annual stocking.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density overall; however, can expect a slight upturn in numbers from good spawn of 2010. Expect better than average numbers of 15-inch plus fish. Fish in mid-lower sections of Robinson Creek and Green River arms for best numbers and chance for 20-inch plus fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish. 15-inch plus spots available.
Walleye	Fair	Overall numbers are fair as are numbers of larger fish (20-inch plus). Fish dam area and headwater areas of Robinson Creek and Green River arms in late February through mid to late March. Target standing timber coves, main lake stump beds, humps, and channel drop offs during summer and fall. Population maintained by annual stocking.
White crappie	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of harvestable-size fish (9-inch plus). Expect to weed through lots of sub-legal fish to find keeper fish. Keep an eye out for the occasional black crappie.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREENBO LAKE	181 acres	(Greenup County - Greenbo State Park)
Bluegill	Fair	Increases in the growth of shoreline and aquatic vegetation will continue to help this population. Fish deep water structure in the spring and beaver lodges in the summer. Note: Bluegill and other sunfish -15 fish daily creel limit.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 2-3 pound fish observed during fall sampling. Note: Limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 15 inches long and chances for trophy-sized fish over 20 inches. Due to water clarity, anglers may have to fish deeper or at night. Fish around downed trees or brush piles.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Annually stocked population with some carry-over. Best fishing year round is in the dam area. During the spring and summer try fishing at night under lights. Winter fishing can also be good.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numbers low, however a few over 8 inches can be caught. After the spawn try fishing in deeper water. Note: See bluegill regulation.
GUIST CREEK LAKE	317 acres	(Shelby County)
Bluegill	Fair	Abundant; most less than 6 inches. Easy to catch; good place to take a child fishing with live bait (redworms or crickets).
Catfish	Excellent	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked last year; very good numbers of catfish with potential for trophies. Flatheads present in lake. Note: this lake is home to current white catfish state record.
Common carp	Good	Fish in coves or headwaters of the lake; fish with grain-based bait; 3 to 4 lb. fish common.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Most in the 7-10 inch range; larger fish are present.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Small population; good numbers of fish in the 16 to 22 inch range; potential for trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit. Excellent potential for quality size fish and bass over 20 inches. Excellent potential for a trophy fish.
Saugeye	Fair	Second year of stocking was completed in 2014; saugeye up to the 17 inches are present. Note: 15-inch size limit.
HERRINGTON LAKE	2,500 acres	(Mercer, Boyle and Garrard counties)
Bluegill	Good	Stable number of fish up to 8 inches can be found around cover in embayments and inlets of rock walls. Best April-June.
Common carp	Fair	Fish in coves or headwaters with grain-based baits on bottom.
Crappie	Good	Difficult to locate but many quality-size fish (9 inches or larger) available; best around brush or fallen trees in upper half of lake. Potential for large black crappie around debris in inlets in main lake.
Flathead catfish	Good	All sizes present; usually feed at night on sunfish and shad.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Overall numbers are down, but 2 to 5-lb fish are present; possible trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish over 12 inches, many over 15 inches; largest fish around shoreline cover in March and April; potential for trophy-sized fish. Best success in the upper half of lake. Good at night during the summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
HERRINGTON LAKE (continued)		
Longnose gar	Good	Large fish common; look for them around schools of shad. Schooling common in fall; potential trophy size.
White bass	Fair/Good	Numbers are down due to recent fish kill caused by disease, but fair numbers of fish in the 12-14 inch range; Trophy-size present.
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER 51,000 acres (Marshall, Calloway, Lyon, Livingston and Trigg counties)		
Blue catfish	Excellent	<p>In the lake, best fishing is along the main river channel. Fish congregate along the ledges of the channel when there is current, and scatter along the adjacent flats during periods of low flow. Drift using live shiners or cut shad/skipjack in areas where creek channels meet the main river channel and along the main river channel near bends. Use a depth finder to determine if the fish are near the bottom or suspended, and then fish appropriately. Other baits to try include: chicken hearts, night crawlers, grass hoppers or catalpa worms.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there are year-round fishing opportunities. The ideal times are in April and May, and October and November. The best bait option is using fresh bait (shad and skipjack herring) caught in the tailwaters. Though most anglers fish from a boat, two fishing piers offer great bank fishing opportunities.</p>
Bluegill	Excellent	There are high numbers of 6-8 inch fish. The best fishing is in May, but bluegill can be caught year-round. Crickets and worms fished under a cork during the spawn are great baits. Later in summer try the stake beds or deep water (6-10 foot) brush piles. Catch bluegill in a feeding frenzy during the summer months where mayflies are hatching along the shoreline. Also try deeper rocky points during the summer with pieces of night crawlers.
Channel catfish	Excellent	<p>In the lake, the best fishing occurs during the late spring along main lake chunky rock shoreline and rip-rap shoreline around the dam and marinas. Good fishing is available along the river channel during summer and on flats along the secondary channels. Jug fishing in the embayments is often a good way to catch a mess of channel catfish.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there are year-round fishing opportunities. However, blue catfish outnumber the channel catfish in the tailwater area. Two piers offer good bank fishing access points, while fishing from a boat might be best downstream around woody debris, stumps and creek mouths.</p>
Crappie	Good	Anglers fishing deep are catching fair numbers of keeper-size white crappie. Anglers fishing shallow along rocky shoreline are catching fair numbers of black crappie. Try casting toward the shoreline with a curly tail jig. Crappie are vulnerable during late winter or early spring as they move toward shallow water areas for spawning. Fish are shallow in early to mid April around buttonball bushes, brush piles and stake beds. Crappie move to secondary channels, drops and flats near creek channels during the fall and winter, and are most frequently found near structure.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	<p>Several good year classes have resulted in quality fishing. During late winter and early spring, suspended fish can often be caught with jerkbaits and other shad imitations such as the Alabama rig. As spring progresses, fish move to wood structure along the shoreline. During the summer big fish are found along the main lake drops and secondary channels. Fishing the weed beds is good with some top water baits on cloudy, rainy days during the summer. Smaller fish can be found in the backs of embayments around brush, and chasing shad during late summer. During the fall, fishing around boat docks and rocky shorelines is good.</p> <p>There is some fine bass fishing in the tailwaters below KY Dam. Try fishing white spinnerbaits along the rip rap shoreline.</p>

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Best fishing is in late April and early May. Redear like areas with gravel substrate. If there are yellow mustard flowers inundated by water in the backs of embayments during this time, this is a good place to find redear. Submerged pondweed clumps also hold redear sunfish. These fish primarily search the bottom for bugs, snails and small mussels; hence you need to fish near or on the bottom. Redear generally spawn a little deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Fair	In the lake, there is a moderate population of harvestable-size (≥ 14 inch) fish. Best fishing is in fall and winter along secondary channels. Try trolling crankbaits. In the tailwaters there is a higher abundance of harvestable-size sauger. This is a good winter fishery. Boat fishing is ideal, though two new fishing piers offer good bank fishing opportunities.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Best fishing along rocky shorelines and bluffs, creek channels at mouths of embayments, the canal main lake points, and main lake stumps. Night fishing during the summer months along gravel bars at the mouths of LBL embayments and rocky shoreline is good with dark colored spinnerbaits with Colorado style blades or crayfish color creature baits and jigs.
Spotted bass	Fair	Spotted bass are not normally targeted, but are caught while fishing for largemouth or smallmouth bass. Spotted bass migrate to the streams at the backs of embayments during the early spring. Gravel bars and points are prime areas to fish during the summer. Secondary points are good during the fall.
Striped bass	Fair	Striped bass and its hybrid are being caught from the lake while fishing for white bass. Trolling with deep diver baits which imitate minnows is effective. Better fishing is available below Kentucky Dam in the tailwater. Fish congregate below the dam during periods of discharge through the generator section of dam. Live herring are the preferred bait. Fishing from a boat is best, but the best shoreline fishing would be off the two fishing piers near the dam. From the shoreline fish with 4-inch sassy shad type baits.
White bass	Fair	Fishing is good in the main lake during summer months when white bass are found schooling along secondary creek channels near the main river channel. Trolling can be very effective for locating these fish. Also look for jumps; when groups of white bass chase shad near the water's surface. In-line spinners and silver spoons work great for catching white bass. Look for main channel points and bends; also near the canal. Good numbers are also found in the Kentucky Dam tailwater area along with its cousin the yellow bass. When fishing from the bank or boat, try using small curly tail jigs or in-line spinner type baits.
Yellow bass	Excellent	Lots of fish but they don't get very big. Their taste is much better than most anglers perceive. Casting the rocky shoreline with a curly tail jig or rooster tail works great. Large numbers are caught while casting the rocky shoreline in the spring for crappie.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY RIVER	255 miles (main stem)	
Bluegill*	Fair	Shoreline areas around woody debris out of the current hold some quality fish but in low numbers.
Channel catfish	Fair	Look for silt-free rocky habitat or below dams or palisades.
Common carp	Fair	Bottom fish with grain-based baits below dams.
Crappie*	Fair/Good	Currently good number of crappie in the Kentucky River; locate in backwater/creek-mouth areas with low current. Fish up to 12 inches or larger possible.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Large fish present around large boulders and log jams.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of 15 to 20-inch fish below dams. Numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Largemouth bass*	Fair	Locate in cover just below dams, in creek mouths, bank slides, or around timber. Numbers have been reduced due to recent flood events over the past year.
Muskellunge	Good	Best in spring around creek mouths, and in summer around timber and creek mouths. Stocked annually in upper river. More fish in upper half of river (pools 6-14).
Sauger	Good	Found around sand bars, creek mouths, below dams around rock and sand bars.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Nice fish possible in mouths of quality tributaries. Also found around rock piles and walls.
Spotted bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of small to medium-size fish; usually below dams but also around palisade rock wall areas.
Walleye	Fair	Present in low numbers due to past stockings and escapement from reservoirs in the headwaters; good-size fish possible below dams.
White bass	Good	Many 10-12 inch fish below dams.

*These are considered "standing water species" and do best in the river after prolonged periods of low-flow conditions. High water or flooding conditions for extended periods will reduce their numbers in the Kentucky River.

KINCAID LAKE	183 acres (Pendleton County)	
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size stocked each year; good potential for fish over 15 inches.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant; most between 6-9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; good numbers of fish over 15 inches; excellent potential for a trophy fish. Note: 12-inch size limit.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE CARNICO 114 acres (Nicholas County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Numbers are low. Concentrate efforts around the shallow spawning beds in the backs of the coves in spring and around structure or weed beds in the summer.
Catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of flathead and channel catfish can be found. Lake is stocked with channel catfish.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of bass present, a few over 15 and 20 inches. Anglers should concentrate summer time efforts around aquatic weed beds.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Numbers are low. See bluegill.
LAKE MALONE 767 acres (Muhlenburg, Todd, and Logan counties)		
Bluegill	Fair	Population mostly comprised of 4-6 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually, good number of 14-16 inch fish with a few 20-inch plus available.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Moderate number of 9-10 inch fish. Fish brush piles and fallen trees along some of the steeper banks.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Stable population with large number of 15-20 inch fish. Many trophy fish available. Fish the shoreline waterwillow during spring and fall and at night during summer with plastic baits. Also try submerged trees and brush along deeper banks in spring and summer with spinner baits and jigs.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number of redear, but good size (9-11 inch) available. Fish water willow edge along the shoreline in spring-early summer. Move to deeper submerged structure as water warms during summer.
LAKE REBA 76 acres (Madison County)		
Grass carp have been stocked to help control the aquatic vegetation; remember removal of these fish is illegal.		
Bluegill	Good	Thinning out the vegetation is helping this lake's panfish population. Anglers should expect a slightly better year in 2015. Great lake to introduce a kid to fishing with the excellent bank access
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Sampling shows high numbers of these stocked size fish, and several over this size. Note: 12-inch minimum size limit; limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass over 15 and 20 inches present. Gibson Bay, upper end of the lake and away from the bank anglers are good during the summer. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers within the lake, most less than 7 inches long. See bluegill.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE WILGREEN	169 acres	(Madison County)
Blue catfish	Good	Stocked annually since 2009. Good catches regularly reported in the summer.
Bluegill	Good	Similar number as previous years and most fish are less than 6.0 inches. The population is healthy up to that point. Should give good fishing opportunities for 2015.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers of fish over 15 and 20 inches. These sizes of fish are fat and healthy. All indicators are continuing to show an increase in this population. Should be another great year.
Redear sunfish	Good	Similar numbers to previous years and most fish are less than 7.0 inches. See bluegill.
LAUREL RIVER LAKE	5,830 acres	(Whitley and Laurel counties)
Bluegill	Good	Good summer fishery with fairly abundant 6-7 inch fish. Try crickets along rock walls in upper Laurel River Arm during summer.
Crappie	Fair	Modest numbers, but some large crappie are available to skilled anglers. Upper Laurel River arm near city dam is best area.
Largemouth bass	Good	The largemouth population has steadily gotten better over the last decade with improved numbers of 14-18 inch fish and some over 20 inches. Upper Laurel River arm is best area.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in January. Should be adequate numbers of 10-14 inch trout and a few larger fish. Try trolling small cranks or spoons during winter and early spring for good catches of stocked fish and the occasional larger fish.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good population of fish over 3 pounds. Persistent anglers have a chance of catching a fish over 6 pounds. Try casting jigs or swim baits in winter and early spring for best chance for a large fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Consistent population of mostly 12-14 inch fish with a few exceeding 15 inches. Best in the mid and lower sections of the lake. Look for schooling fish chasing shad on the surface in early fall.
Walleye	Good	Multiple year classes and good size range in population. Most of the larger fish (22-27 inch) are from strong 2009 year class. Try surface baits at night during spring, or troll deep diving crank baits or spinner rigs across points and islands in summer and fall.
White bass	Poor	Poor population overall but a few can be caught in the Laurel River Arm.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LINVILLE LAKE	361 acres	(Rockcastle County)
Bluegill	Good	Abundant 6-7 inch fish available. Try crickets, red worms, or small jigs for good spring and summer fishing. Good access for bank anglers.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-9 inch fish, with a few exceeding 10 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked during odd-numbered years. Good numbers of 12-18 inch fish with some fish over 20 inches available. Good bank fishing available.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Stocked annually. Anglers can expect mostly 10-13 inch hybrids with a fair number of larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Improving size range with increasing numbers of fish over 15 inches.
Spotted bass	Good	Improving size, though few reach 13 inches.
White bass	Fair	Decent numbers of 11-14 inch whites.

MARION COUNTY LAKE	32 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 11 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High numbers of 11-13 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Good	10-inch plus fish available. Larger fish up shallow in early/mid April for spawn then move out to thermocline depth.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish available; fish laydown trees in the upper end of the lake in spring and brushpiles in late winter and summer.

MARTINS FORK LAKE	334 acres	(Harlan County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers. Most harvested fish are 7.25 inches or less. Fish shallow mud flats in spring or summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fingerlings were stocked in 2014. Fish at night for better results as water is very clear. There are several good bank fishing areas. Cranks Creek and Martins Fork Creek where first entering the lake when murky can have good numbers of fish.
Crappie	Fair	White crappie are present. Harvested fish are typically 9 to 10 inches. Occasional large fish up to 12-13 inches. Crappie are scattered in shallow water in spring and congregate in tight groups in standing timber in summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth but low recruitment and low numbers. A good year class of fish spawned in 2010 should improve numbers in coming years and fingerlings were stocked in 2011. Numbers over 15 inches are above average at present for the lake. This lake contains 4 species of black bass that may be caught by anglers (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, and coosa bass). Largemouth bass numbers account for approximately 80% of the black bass in the lake.
Walleye	Poor	The last stocking of Erie strain walleye occurred in 2004. This fishery is currently rebuilding with stockings of native strain walleye in 2013 and 2014.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MAUZY LAKE 81 acres (Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large number of 3-5 inch bluegill, but number of 6-8 inch fish is increasing.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 15-22 inch fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good	Number of 12-16 inch fish have declined over the last couple of years. Still many 18-21 inch bass. A good number of smaller fish in the population should bring up the number of mid-sized fish as they grow into this size range in the next few years. Fish plastic baits and spinner baits around hardwood brush piles, especially in spring/early summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Redear sunfish population continues to improve. Number of fish over 8 inches is increasing.
MCNEELY LAKE 51 acres (Jefferson County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish through 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable-size stocked each year; large fish possible.
Common carp	Fair	A few large fish present.
Crappie	Fair	Quality size fish possible; fish near weed beds and fallen trees, particularly in spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit. Best cover is water willow, fallen trees and stumps.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish through 9 inches; ≥ 10 -inch fish are present.
Warmouth	Fair	Large fish present around weed beds.
METCALFE COUNTY LAKE 22 acres (Metcalfe County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	High numbers overall with good numbers of 6-inch fish; however, few exceed 8 inches.
Blue catfish	Fair	Fair numbers overall, but some trophy-size fish (30-inch plus) available. Fish with live or cut bait near creek channel. Stocked annually since 2009.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Poor/Fair	Smaller-sized (8-9 inch) on average; better sizes available but not overly abundant.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Not a high density population; however, trophy fish (20-inch plus) potential consistently above average. Try trout colored jerkbaits in May.
Rainbow trout	Fair	600 fish stocked in March for a put and take fishery. Water too warm by mid-May to support trout.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MILL CREEK LAKE 109 acres (Monroe County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 12 feet.		
Blue catfish	Fair	Stocked annually since 2008 with 550 fish per year.
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Fair number of 8-9 inch fish. Larger crappie present but at low numbers.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus) overall; 18-inch plus fish numbers well above average.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Lower numbers overall, but large fish (10-inch plus) available.
Spotted bass	Poor/Fair	Fair numbers, but slow growing with few fish exceeding 12 inches.
MILL CREEK LAKE 41 acres (Powell/Wolfe County – Natural Bridge State Park)		
Bluegill	Good	Better numbers recently; high numbers of fish over 6.0 and 8.0 inches. Water is extremely clear and can be difficult to fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Note: Limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Similar numbers to previous years. Holds nice 20.0 inch plus fish, but this lake can be difficult to fish. The timber areas in the upper reaches are the best bet. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Stocked annually. Best time to fish is within the first few days after stocking.
NEW KINGFISHER LAKE 21 acres (Daviess County)		
Renovation work was completed during the fall of 2014. The lakes will be allowed to re-fill and re-stocking will begin during the spring of 2015.		
NOLIN RIVER LAKE 5,795 acres (Grayson, Edmonson and Hart counties)		
Catfish	Good	<u>Channel catfish</u> - Good number of 15-20 inch fish and many larger. Fish upper lake (Sportsman's Paradise and Cane Run) and river area in early spring and rocky main lake banks mid-May through June. <u>Flathead catfish</u> - lower numbers than channels but several large (30+ lbs) fish harvested annually. Fish late May through June along the steeper rocky banks.
Crappie	Good	Crappie angling should continue to be good at Nolin in 2015. Good number of 10-11 inch fish in the population. During summer months fish deeper brush piles 18-20 feet deep mid lake for larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Decent number of 15-20 inch largemouth in the population. Anglers continue to enjoy a good number of quality bass in 2015.
Walleye	Fair	Most fish 13-16 inches with a few up to 20-21 inches. In early spring, fish Bacon creek and upper river with lead head jigs and plastic grubs. In summer troll Sportsman's Paradise, Conoloway Creek, and the longer main lake points in the Red Rock and Rock Creek areas.
White bass	Excellent	Large number of 13-15 inch white bass in the population. Fish Bacon Creek and upper river during spring spawning run with lead head jigs and plastic grubs or live bait. Fish longer main lake points or jumps in summer. Also in summer, fish at night under lights near main channel with jigging spoons or live minnows.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
OHIO RIVER		
Blue catfish	Good	Good populations in tailwaters and deep holes around outside bends.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Look for silt-free, rocky habitat and embayments.
Common carp	Fair	Large fish possible. Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Backwater areas and creek mouths with brushy habitat are best producers.
Flathead catfish	Good	Potential for very large fish; look for cover such as sunken logs, boulders or other large objects.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Fish up to 6 pounds in and around tailwaters.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Sauger	Good	Spring and fall below dams with minnows or jigs on bottom.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low population in mid/upper river in sections of rocky habitat and tailwaters.
Spotted bass	Fair	Fish the main channel around cover.
Striped bass	Fair	Mid-summer to late fall good for 6-10 pound fish.
Walleye	Fair	Occasionally found in tailwaters.
White bass	Good	Good population.

PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER 1,139 acres (Morgan and Johnson counties)		
Hydrilla is present at Paintsville Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Channel catfish	Fair	Large catfish present in low densities in upper lake. Down-lake large fish are often located deep; fish that are shallow can be found around rock riprap shoreline areas.
Crappie	Good	Most of successful fishing is done on the upper end of the lake into Open Fork and Little Paint Creeks; fish sampled up to 15 inches. Late March can often provide good catches of keeper fish in shallow water near Patoker boat ramp. Look for sunny days at this time of year for best fishing. Lower lake will have larger fish often holding at edges of hydrilla beds.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High survival of young fish due in part to presence of hydrilla which offers ample cover. Stable population with high numbers of fish <12 inches; fish sampled up to 24 inches; slow growth rates; number of fish over 15 inches are increasing and tournament weights are improving. March is popular for catches of lunker fish in standing timber.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Good fishing available in shallow water during winter-early spring after February stocking; some fish present in summer at depth of 20-25 feet. The catch and release portion of the tailwater can offer good quality rainbow and brown trout fishing.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Poor recruitment; fish sampled up to 22 inches (lower lake areas seem best for larger fish); 18 inch minimum size implemented in 2005; changes were made in water releases at dam in 2006 to improve summer cool water habitat; spawning benches being placed in lake to aid spawning. Supplemental stockings of native strain fish have occurred from 2009-2012.
Spotted bass	Poor	Numbers are down; some large spotted bass present up to 14 inches; best fishing in lower half of lake along main lake shoreline.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Walleye	Fair	Fair numbers through 28 inches; potential for trophy size; look for active fish to be suspended in March; also May and October are good months to fish with live night crawlers on a light jighead fished off the bottom. During summer, drop minnows or nightcrawlers down weedbed edges. Last several year classes are doing well and will provide quite a few keeper fish for 2015.

PAN BOWL LAKE 98 acres (Breathitt County)

Eurasian water milfoil is present in Panbowl Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment. Grass carp were stocked in Panbowl Lake in 2010 to control the Eurasian water milfoil. All grass carp caught in Panbowl Lake must be released immediately.

Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 7.5 inches throughout the lake. Fish early or late in the year when milfoil is not a problem.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fish were stocked in 2014; lots of shoreline areas for bank fishing.
Crappie	Fair	Black and white crappie are present; fish sampled up to 12 inches; most are less than 9 inches; tend to congregate in tight groups in deeper areas of lake.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Numerous fish up to 12 inches. Lower numbers of fish from 13-18 inches and then some fish available from 18-24 inches; lake has heavy fishing pressure and harvest of fish; lake contains a large amount of aquatic vegetation providing cover for large fish. Due to extensive fishing pressure, success for large fish is tough.
Rainbow trout	Good	Lake is stocked in March and October with rainbow trout; anglers do well with bait under floater.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 8.5 inches. May and June are good months to fish around weed beds and near docks.

PENNYRILE LAKE 47 acres (Christian County)

Bluegill	Fair	Some nice bluegill are present as a result of the stunted bass population. Numerous fish less than 6 inches also present.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of catfish 12-15 inches, and a few larger individuals present as well. Fishing around fallen trees and beaver huts with night crawlers or cheese bait should provide success.
Crappie	Poor	Low overall numbers of crappie, but fish are good size.
Largemouth bass	Fair	This lake has a high number of bass 12 inches and smaller. It is a great place to take kids fishing! Bass are protected between 12-15 inches. Harvesting some smaller ones is allowed, and will help the population.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numerous fish in the 7-9 inch range. Few redear present greater than 10 inches. Try fishing a small piece of night crawler under a cork near the bottom for best success.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ROUGH RIVER LAKE and Tailwater 5,100 acres (Breckinridge and Grayson counties)		
Catfish	Good	Good number of 20-25 inch channel catfish with many larger. Lower number of flathead catfish, but trophy fish available. Fish upper lake areas in early spring and steeper rocky banks during mid May-June for spawning fish.
Crappie	Good	Good number of 9-11 inch fish with 12-14 inch fish available. Deeper brush piles in mid-lake hold larger fish during summer.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Excellent population of hybrid striped bass. Good number over 20 inches available. Fish upper lake areas in spring. Troll main lake points in summer or fish jumps in main lake (Dam to Tules Creek on north fork and Dam to Little Clifty Creek on south fork). Fish main lake points and sand/mud flats in fall and winter. Tailwater area good spring fishery (April).
Largemouth bass	Good	The number of 15-20 inch bass remains higher than the last several years. Bass anglers at Rough should continue to enjoy a good number of quality bass for the next few years.
Tailwater*	Closed	Access to the tailwater will be closed for 3-5 years beginning April 2015 due to repair work being performed on the dam.

SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE 135 acres (Warren and Edmonson counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 10 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Numbers of 6-inch plus fish up from last couple of years.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of 12-14 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish. Larger fish up shallow early in the spring then out to thermocline depths by early summer.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish (10-14 inches) available. Fish stakebeds and shallow brushpiles in spring; deeper brush in late winter and summer.

SMOKY VALLEY LAKE 36 acres (Carter County – Carter Caves State Park)		
Bluegill	Fair	Slightly better than last season; most less than 7.0 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Note: Limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	There has been some improvement in the population of largemouth in the lake. There are plenty of chances to catch a good number of fish, but the size is still not there for this population. Note: 12-15 inch protective slot limit; 6 fish daily creel limit, only one over 15 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
SPURLINGTON LAKE	36 acres	(Taylor County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes present. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Better than average numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus). Big bass (20-inch plus) opportunities above average.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Lower numbers of fish overall; however, 10-inch plus available.

TAYLORSVILLE LAKE	3,050 acres	(Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good number of fish 6 inches and longer around standing timber in coves.
Catfish	Good	Blue catfish population stable; stocked annually since 2002. Fish with live bait, cut bait or crank baits (open water areas). Fish over 30 inches possible. Many channel catfish of all sizes; look for bigger fish in the timber in spring, head of creeks in fall, and points next to channel any time. Numbers of flathead catfish are increasing.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good number of fish at and above the 9-inch size limit. Black crappie now dominate population. Good spawns of white and black crappie were found in 2013. Note: daily creel limit 15 fish.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Hybrid striped bass numbers increasing, including numbers of fish greater than 15 inches. In spring and fall, there is good fishing in headwaters. Look for jumps early and late in day July-September.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers of 12 to 15-inch fish; Good number of 15 to 18-inch fish; best in timber coves; try embayments in spring and fall.
White bass	Fair	Good numbers in Salt River above the lake in spring (with good flow from rains) and fall; many 10-12 inch fish present.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
THREE SPRINGS LAKE 30 acres (Warren County)		
Lake is very shallow (no deeper than 6-7 ft)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-8 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers and good size fish (15-inch plus) available. Stocked periodically through the spring and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous fish available; few fish larger than 12 inches. Fish trout colored swim baits after stocking dates and in early to mid-May.
Rainbow Trout	Good	Stocked periodically through winter and early spring months (November – March) for put and take fishing. Lake too warm for trout by early-mid May.
Redear	Fair	Fair number of 9-10 inch fish available.
WASHBURN LAKE 18 acres (Ohio County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Low number; most fish 6-7 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good number of fish in the population; many 15-20 inches.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Population dominated by slower growing sub-legal fish. Few fish greater than 12 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low number; most fish in the 7-8 inch range, but some 9-inch fish available.
WEST FORK DRAKES RESERVOIR 88 acres (Simpson County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 8 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-inch plus fish. Few 8-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Numerous sizes available. Fishing best at night near creek channel.
Largemouth bass	Fair/good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish due to good spawn in 2010.
Muskie	Fair	Fishing best in the lower half of the lake near vegetation beds in winter to early spring. Fishing good below the dam year-round using large inline spinners and jerk baits.
Redear sunfish	Good	Better than average number of 6-inch plus fish.
WOOD CREEK LAKE 672 acres (Laurel County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-7 inch bluegills.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year. Consistently produces 12-18 inch fish.
Crappie	Fair	Good density of smaller fish with some fish exceeding 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Population has good size range with some fish exceeding 20 inches.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in October and February.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
WOOD CREEK LAKE (continued)		
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate density of 8-inch and larger redear are available. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
Spotted bass	Fair	Most are less than 12 inches. Mid and lower lake areas are best.

YATESVILLE LAKE 2,314 acres (Lawrence County)		
Popular lake for tournament fishing as most of the year produces good results. To avoid boat access congestion problems at ramps, KDFWR is asking all tournament organizers to utilize KDFWR tournament scheduling website for scheduling tournament at the lake. Also check KDFWR web page for GPS coordinates of submerged fish habitat structures.		
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution throughout the lake; numerous fish 7.0-7.5 inches.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Quality size distribution and densities of catfish exist in all areas of the lake; recent stockings have greatly increased numbers. During fall to early winter many fish are shallow in upper lake; popular lake for jugging and limb lines.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of 8-15 inch fish. Larger crappie will aggressively go after shad or minnows. Traditional brushy areas and deadfall trees are good for spring spawning fish, with shallow mudflats being good in the fall. This fishery consists only of white crappie.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Good size distribution with fair numbers; rocky shoreline and brush will have better numbers. Good recruitment of young fish in recent years.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution with good numbers of 15-22 inch fish. Supplemental stockings of fingerling bass were conducted in 2009, 2012, and 2013 to aid average recruitment.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Population is increasing; annual stockings of fish from 2010-2013; larger fish up to 10 inches.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Lakes

Largemouth bass

During late winter/early spring, look for suspended schools of fish near primary and secondary points. Once located, try using suspended jerkbaits or Alabama rigs. Vary your twitch speeds with your jerkbait until you've found what the fish seem to prefer for the day. Fishing slower is often better, as fish can be slow to take a lure in cold water.

In spring, fish shallow with a Rapala #11 or #13 gold with black back, and floating or shallow diving stick baits. Also try black/brown or black/blue ½-ounce jigs with a #11 or #1 pork frog in the yellow mustard flowers in the backs of embayments. Around woody structure use a spinner bait, or plastic lizards in pumpkin or june bug color.

During summer, fish ledges near river channels with Carolina-rigged and Texas-rigged soft plastics, and deep-diving crank baits. Also fish stumps on the main lake in the mornings and evenings with topwater baits like the zara spook (current is the key to these main lake stumps being productive). Using a 10 inch plastic worm fished along the ledges during the summer months is also good. A good color is plum.

During fall, fish along main lake ledges around stumps and brush with shad or blue/chartreuse color crank baits. Use top water baits (zara spook or devils horse) in the flats of embayments on cloudy days or at dawn and dusk. Use white spinnerbaits around main lake stumps.

Weed beds are extremely productive during the late spring, summer and early fall. Top water baits such as zara spooks, stick baits, plastic frogs, and buzz baits are great choices. Plastics such as worms, and spinnerbaits are also good when fishing the edges of the weed beds.

Crappie

In spring, fish shallow and over flats with jigs and minnows. Cork fish around buttonball bushes. During summer, white bass anglers trolling small crankbaits near the river channel and primary points in the lake catch many crappie. During fall, fish jigs and minnows next to deep ledges formed by the river channel. Fish may also be caught suspended on flats adjacent to the secondary channel around 10 feet deep near structure. Fall is also a good time to catch black crappie along gravelly shorelines, fishing with a curly tail jig.

Blue catfish

During the summer, fish along the main river channel with minnows, cut shad/skipjack herring, and stink baits.

Channel catfish

In spring, fish with leeches or night crawlers around rip rap. During summer, fish with cut shad, chicken livers, minnows, leeches, and worms along the main river channel.

Sauger

Troll mainlake bars during the late summer and early fall with wiggle-warts or crankbaits, which bump bottom. During fall and winter, use jigs and minnows along the old river channel, along primary points near the river channel, and where a secondary channel meets the old river channel. A good site for fishing is along the river channel just north of the Paris Landing Bridge (US Highway 79).

White bass

Fish the jumps from July – September with slab spoons or white roostertails.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Tailwaters

Blue and channel catfish	The best time is in May-June using cut bait or live bait just off the bottom.
Sauger	Fish $\frac{3}{4}$ -oz or 1-oz jigs with minnows bumping bottom in back eddies and near current. Trolling is also good during the winter and early spring. Best fishing is between December and February.
Striped bass and hybrids	The best time is from April-June using live bait (skipjack herring) or 4-inch sassy shad baits with a 1-2 ounce head in pearl or chartreuse color. The amount of weight depends on the current and should allow baits to bump the bottom. Live bait can be caught in the tailwaters using a cast net or a skipjack rod.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass	Bluegill	Redear sunfish	Crappie	Rainbow trout	Brown trout	Muskellunge
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Barren River		✓							✓
Barren River Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Beaver Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Benjy Kinman Lake	✓								
Beshear Lake	✓								
Briggs Lake									
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater				✓		✓			
Bullock Pen Lake	✓								
Carpenter Lake									
Carr Creek Lake			✓						
Cave Run Lake	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Cedar Creek Lake	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Chenoa Lake	✓								
Clear Creek Lake				✓	✓				
Corinth Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Cumberland Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Cumberland Tailwater							✓	✓	
Dale Hollow Lake	✓	✓	✓						
Dewey Lake						✓			
Elkhorn Creek	✓	✓							
Elmer Davis Lake	✓				✓				
Fagan Branch Lake					✓				
Fishpond Lake	✓						✓		
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Floyds Fork Creek		✓					✓		
Grayson Lake	✓			✓					
Green River		✓							✓
Green River Lake	✓		✓			✓			✓
Greenbo Lake	✓						✓		
Guist Creek Lake	✓								
Herrington Lake	✓								
Kentucky Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Kentucky River									✓
Kincaid Lake	✓								
Lake Malone	✓								
Lake Reba	✓								
Lake Wilgreen	✓			✓	✓				
Laurel River Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Linville Lake	✓		✓	✓					
Marion County Lake				✓	✓				
Martin's Fork Lake				✓					
Mauzy Lake	✓								
McNeely Lake				✓	✓				
Metcalf County Lake	✓			✓					
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)	✓			✓					
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)	✓			✓					
Nolin River Lake	✓						✓		
Ohio River							✓		
Paintsville Lake/tailwater						✓			
Panbowl Lake				✓	✓		✓		
Pennyrile Lake									
Rough River Lake	✓					✓			
Smoky Valley Lake									
Spurlington Lake	✓								
Taylorville Lake	✓								
Three Springs Lake							✓		
Washburn Lake									
West Fork Drakes Reservoir					✓				
Wood Creek Lake	✓								
Yatesville Lake	✓			✓		✓			

** Additional species can be found on following page.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Striped bass	Hybrid striped bass	White bass	Walleye	Sauger	Channel catfish	Blue catfish	Flathead catfish
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓		✓			✓	✓	
Barren River						✓		
Barren River Lake		✓				✓	✓	✓
Beaver Lake						✓		
Benjy Kinman Lake								
Beshear Lake						✓		
Briggs Lake						✓		
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater						✓		✓
Bullock Pen Lake								
Carpenter Lake						✓		
Carr Creek Lake				✓				
Cave Run Lake						✓		
Cedar Creek Lake								
Chenoa Lake								
Clear Creek Lake								
Corinth Lake						✓		
Cumberland Lake	✓			✓		✓		
Cumberland Tailwater			✓					
Dale Hollow Lake								
Dewey Lake						✓	✓	✓
Elkhorn Creek						✓		
Elmer Davis Lake						✓		
Fagan Branch Lake						✓		
Fishpond Lake								
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater		✓				✓		✓
Floyds Fork Creek								
Grayson Lake		✓				✓		✓
Green River	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Green River Lake						✓		
Greenbo Lake						✓		
Guist Creek Lake						✓		
Herrington Lake								✓
Kentucky Lake/tailwater						✓	✓	
Kentucky River			✓		✓			
Kincaid Lake						✓		
Lake Malone						✓		
Lake Reba						✓		
Lake Wilgreen							✓	
Laurel River Lake				✓				
Linville Lake						✓		
Marion County Lake						✓		
Martin's Fork Lake						✓		
Mauzy Lake						✓		
McNeely Lake								
Metcalfe County Lake								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)						✓		
Nolin River Lake			✓			✓		✓
Ohio River		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paintsville Lake/tailwater								
Panbowl Lake						✓		
Pennyrile Lake						✓		
Rough River Lake		✓				✓		
Smoky Valley Lake						✓		
Spurlington Lake						✓		
Taylorville Lake						✓	✓	
Three Springs Lake						✓		
Washburn Lake						✓		
West Fork Drakes Reservoir						✓		
Wood Creek Lake						✓		
Yatesville Lake						✓		



KENTUCKY HUNTING GUIDE

for DOVE, WOOD DUCK, TEAL,
WOODCOCK, SNIPE and CROW

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 – FEBRUARY 29, 2016

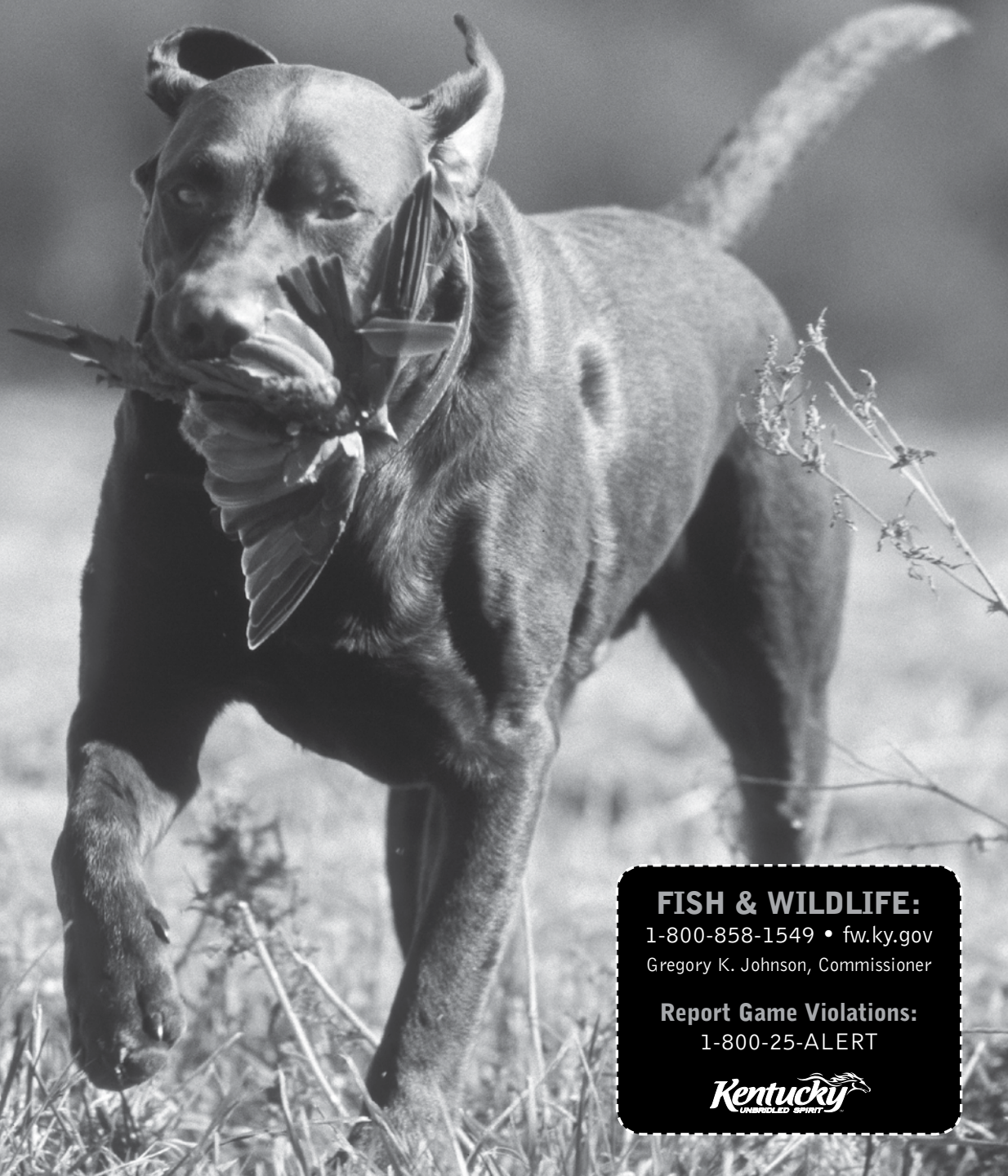


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If you hunt for doves, ducks or any other migratory birds, you are required to fill out a HIP Migratory Bird Survey before you go hunting. To take the quick survey just log into your My Profile page on our website FW.KY.GOV



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KENTUCKY DOVE HUNTING GUIDE

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Joe Laceyfield photo

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boat registration fees. It receives no general fund state tax dollars. The Department manages, regulates, enforces and promotes responsible use of all fish and wildlife species, their habitats, public wildlife areas and waterways for the benefit of those resources and for public enjoyment. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is an agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

License: Unless license exempt, hunters must possess a valid Kentucky hunting license when hunting the species listed in this guide.

A Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting Permit, along with a federal migratory bird stamp, authorize the holder to hunt all types of migratory game birds including waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, mergansers).

For those who hunt migratory birds other than waterfowl, only a Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit is required. **Before hunting migratory birds, hunters must now go online or call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and fill out the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey before they are legal migratory bird hunters.**

The process takes less than 5 minutes. On the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife webpage at fw.ky.gov, click on the "My Profile" tab. This takes you to a page that asks for some basic information to confirm your identity. After completing the HIP survey, you will receive a confirmation number that must be written on your hunting license or Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting permit.

BAITED FIELDS

It is illegal to hunt doves or waterfowl over a "baited" field. Baited fields are areas where grain, salt or other attractants have been placed other than those that occur by legitimate agricultural practices. Mature wildlife food plots grown to attract doves are legal hunting areas, as long as no additional attractants have been placed on these areas.

FIELD DRESSING

When field dressing, or otherwise

preparing for transportation, any of the species in this guide, except doves, one fully feathered wing or the head must be left on each bird for identification.

HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

All shotguns used to hunt any game species in Kentucky (except deer) must be plugged to hold three shells total; one in the chamber and two in the magazine. Shotguns of 10 gauge or smaller are permitted.

TAGGING

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following:
1) The hunter's signature and address;
2) The total number of birds involved, by species;
3) The dates such birds were taken. Tagging is required if birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.

WANTON WASTE

All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

NON-TOXIC SHOT

Possession or use of any lead shot while hunting or attempting to take waterfowl is prohibited statewide. Only USFWS-approved non-toxic shot may be possessed and used to hunt **doves** on Ballard, Boatwright, Doug Travis, Sloughs, Kaler Bottoms, Kentucky River, Duck Island, Taylorsville Lake, Ohio River Islands, South Shore, Yatesville Lake WMAs and Clarks River NWR and other areas as posted by signs.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a **SUMMARY** of the laws regarding migratory bird hunting. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources **BEFORE** engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm.

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO YOU NEED?

NOTE: Licenses and permits are not required for kids under the age of 12.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License



HIP survey required (also required for Resident Sportsman's License)

(See preceding page and back cover for new procedures on HIP survey)

HUNTING SEASONS

See next page for further details about these hunting seasons.

SPECIES	Season Dates	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Dove	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26, Nov. 26 - Dec. 6, 2015 and Dec. 19, 2015 - Jan. 10, 2016	15 (including white-winged dove)	45
Wilson's Snipe	Sept. 16 - Oct. 25, 2015 and Nov. 26, 2015 - Jan. 31, 2016	8	24
Virginia & Sora Rail	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2015	25 singly or combined	75
Purple & Common Gallinule	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2015	3 singly or combined	9
American Woodcock	Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2015	3	9
Crow	Sept. 1 - Nov. 7, 2015 and Jan. 4 - Feb. 28, 2016	none	none
Early Wood Duck & Teal (includes blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal)	Sept. 19-23, 2015	6 birds with no more than 2 wood ducks	18 birds with no more than 4 wood ducks
Teal Only	Sept. 24-27, 2015	6	18
September Canada Goose	Sept. 1-15, 2015	5	15
Youth Waterfowl Days	Eastern Zone: Nov. 7-8, 2015 Western Zone: Feb. 6-7, 2016	Same as duck and goose seasons	

SHOOTING HOURS

Dove, private land	Sept. 1: 11 a.m. to sunset. Remainder of dove season: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset
Dove, public land (WMAs, leased fields)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26: 11 a.m. to sunset. Remainder of dove season: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset
All other species	one-half hour before sunrise to sunset

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Daily limit refers to the number of birds which may be taken during a one-day period. Possession limit applies to transporting birds after two or more days of hunting but *does not* permit a double daily bag limit in the field.

OTHER SEASON NOTES

DOVE

Eurasian collared doves resemble mourning doves but possess a black slash across the back of their necks. Hunters should not continue to hunt for Eurasian collared doves after reaching the 15-bird daily dove bag limit. Eurasian collared doves cleaned in the field count toward the 15-bird daily dove bag limit. If the head and/or wing remains attached during transport or in the field, hunters may take unlimited numbers of Eurasian collared doves.

CROW

Mechanical devices and electronic attracting devices for crow hunting may only be used during the open season. Crows observed committing or about to commit acts of depredation may be taken year-round; however, persons attempting to take depredating crows **must use U.S.**

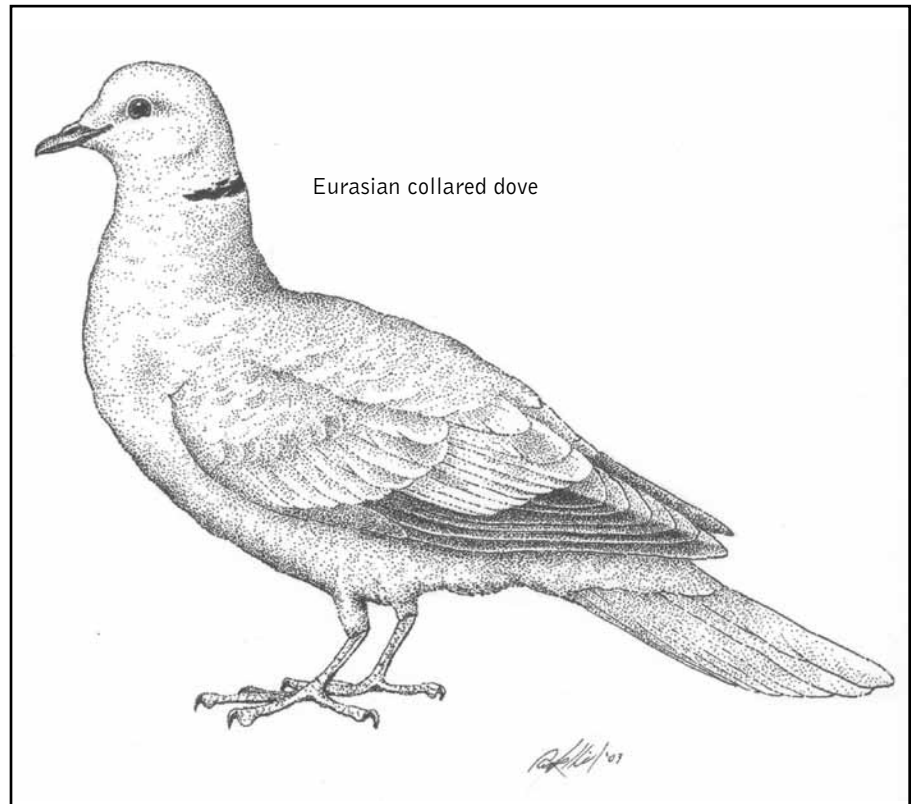
Fish and Wildlife Service approved non-toxic shot, shall not use blinds, decoys, calls or other lures to attract birds into shooting range during the closed season.

EARLY WOOD DUCK, TEAL and CANADA GOOSE

USFWS-approved non-toxic shot no larger than size T is required for all waterfowl hunting. Hunters may not possess or use lead shot while hunting or attempting to take waterfowl.

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE

The following areas are closed to this season:



Eurasian collared dove

- 1. Northeast Goose Zone:** Bath, Menifee, Morgan (except the portion in Paintsville Lake WMA) and Rowan counties including Cave Run Lake.
- 2. West-Central Goose Zone public lands** (private lands are open): Muhlenberg County, Ohio County south of Rough River, Butler County west of Hwy. 79 and north of Hwy. 70, and Hopkins County east of Hwys. 814 and Madisonville, and south of Hwy. 85 east of Madisonville.
- 3. Ballard Zone:** Private lands in this zone are now open to this season, public lands remain closed. The portion of Ballard County north or west of the Bal-

lard-McCracken County line to Hwy. 358; Hwy. 358 to U.S. 60; U.S. 60 to the city limits of Wickliffe; the city limits of Wickliffe to the center of the Mississippi River.

Areas manipulated for dove hunting are not legal for waterfowl hunting.

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS

Two weekends, one in each duck zone, have been designated for youth only to waterfowl hunt. Hunters under age 16 may take a legal limit of ducks, coots, mergansers and geese on these days. See the 2015-16 Kentucky Hunting Guide for Waterfowl for additional information.

PUBLIC HUNTING

2015 PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS

WMAs and Cooperative Fields

Private fields in the cooperative dove field program are open for public dove hunting Sept. 1 and 5 (**except Mentor-Youth Hunt sites are closed to the general public Sept. 1-5**). All fields reopen

Sept. 6 - Oct. 26. Private cooperative fields are closed to public access except on the dates listed above. Hunters may drive by private cooperative fields prior to the season but may not leave their vehicles to scout. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are open during regular seasons under statewide regulations unless otherwise specified in the following list. Wet weather may have delayed spring planting

of some fields. Field conditions may vary considerably, even on the same WMA. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends hunters scout fields listed below to ensure they are ready for the time you plan to hunt. **When hunting a public area, hunt safely and be courteous of others. Do not leave trash behind. The future of the cooperative dove field program depends on you.**

WESTERN KENTUCKY


Ballard County

- Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA): U.S. 60 west from Paducah, about 16 miles then right onto Hwy. 310. Travel about 6 miles to stop sign at Hwy. 358. Cross Hwy. 358 and continue on Hwy. 310 to Hwy. 1105. Cross Hwy. 1105 onto Mitchell Lake Rd. then travel about 2 miles to fields on both sides of road. *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.*

Livingston County

- From Carrsville, take Hwy. 135 east 0.6 mile to field on left.

McCracken County

-  Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge: Mentor/Youth Hunts - Sept. 5-6, call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations. Opens to public hunting Sept. 7. From Symsonia, Hwy. 131 north about 2.15 miles to fields on left marked by signs. Shooting hours 2-7 p.m. local time. *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.*
- West Kentucky WMA, Tract 1: From Paducah, U.S. 60 west to Future City, right (north) onto Hwy. 996 for 1.5 miles. Left at stop sign onto Hwy. 725 for 1 mile. Field on right. Tract 4 and 4A: Two fields. U.S. 60 west from Paducah for 10.5 miles from I-24, turn right (north) onto Bethel Church Rd., travel about 3.25 miles, turn right onto gravel road for 0.6 mile to mobility-impaired accessible pond. Fields directly north and east of pond. Tract 5: Two fields. U.S. 60 west from Paducah to Future City, then right (north) onto Hwy. 996, for 3.5 miles, then left (west) onto Hwy. 358 for 1.7 miles. Turn right (north) onto Boldry School Rd. for about 1 mile to fields on both sides of road. Tract 7A: One field. U.S. 60 west from Paducah to Hwy. 996 for 3.5 miles, then left onto Hwy. 358 for 1.3 miles to field on right. Hunters on Tracts 4A and 7A must sign-in at check-in-box before hunting.

WEST CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Barren County

- Barren River Lake WMA, Goose Island Unit: Access from US 31 E to Hwy. 1318.

Breckinridge County

- Yellowbank WMA: 20 miles north of Hardinsburg on Hwy. 259; 20 miles west of Brandenburg on Hwy. 144 to

Hwy. 259. 2 fields, see map at Information Station. *On Tract 4, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only (marked by signs).*

Henderson County

- Sloughs WMA: Two fields off Hwy. 268; one field off Mt. Vernon Rd. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.*

Hopkins County

- From the Pennyrile Parkway, take exit 37, turn east toward Pilot Truck Stop, then right onto Hwy. 813 for about 4.8 miles to field on left side of highway.

Muhlenberg County

- From Western Kentucky Parkway exit 48, take Hwy. 175 north to a right just north of the parkway onto Hwy. 2693 (Graham-Cypress Rd.) for 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Powerhouse Rd. for 0.4 mile to field on right.


Muhlenberg/Ohio counties

- Peabody WMA: Sinclair Unit, 3 fields; Baker Bottoms Unit, 2 fields; and Ken Unit, 3 fields. User permit required for Peabody WMA, call (270) 476-1889 for more information.

Todd County

- From Sharon Grove, take Hwy. 106 north to a left onto Crawford Rd. for 1 mile to field on left at Gail Sears Rd.

Union County

-  Higginson-Henry WMA: Hwy. 56, about 7 miles southeast of Morganfield. Two fields, see maps at kiosk. *One field (marked by signs) closed Sept. 1-5 for Mentor/Youth Hunt; call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations.*
- Big Rivers WMA: Union County: Two fields. From Sturgis, take Hwy. 109 north, then left on Hwy. 1508 for about 1.4 miles. One field each on two access roads, Locust Lick Rd. and Lovers Lane, on the left off Hwy. 1508.
- Crittenden County: From Sturgis, Hwy. 365 south to field next to WMA office.

CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Anderson County

- Taylorsville Lake WMA: Two fields. Field 1: From Taylorsville, travel east on Hwy. 248 for 14.8 miles. Field in Van Buren Bottoms below Hwy. 248 Bridge at Salt River. *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.* Field 2: From Taylorsville travel east on Hwy. 248, turn south onto Hwy. 2239/Overlook Rd. Field will be on the right and parking at first parking lot.

Special closings




Indicates a Mentor/Youth Hunt site, where all or part of the area is reserved for Mentor/Youth Hunt participants on certain dates. Reservations are required for these hunts. See page 5 for more information, or call 1-800-858-1549 or visit fw.ky.gov.

Franklin County

- T.N. Sullivan WMA: From Frankfort, take U.S. 127 north for 4.1 miles to a right onto Steele Branch Rd. and proceed to the "T" with Old Owenton Rd. Turn left and travel 0.4 mile to a right onto Hwy. 1262 (Sullivan Lane) for 0.75 mile to WMA. Follow signs to field.

Grant County

-  Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA: 3 fields. Take Crittenden exit from I-75. Follow U.S. 25 south to Hwy. 491, turn left across railroad tracks, then right on Wildlife Rd. *Field 2 closed Sept. 1 - 5 for Mentor/Youth Hunt; call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations.*

Harrison County

- Griffith Woods WMA: From Georgetown, take U.S. 62 east toward Cynthiana. Field on left 0.5 mile from intersection of Hwy. 353 (Russell Cave Road).


Henry County

- Kentucky River WMA: 2 tracts. Welch Tract: U.S. 421 to Hwy. 561, 1 mile west of Gest (near Lock 3). Boone Tract: Hwy. 355 to Gratz. Turn left onto KY 22. Cross the Kentucky River then take a right onto KY 389 and travel about 3 miles. Follow signs for parking. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only on both tracts.*

Madison County

- Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA: 9 miles southeast of Richmond; from U.S. 421 at Kingston left (east) onto Hwy. 3376 (Dreyfus Rd.) for about 2 miles. Turn right (south) onto Muddy Creek Rd. (just past WMA office) to dove fields on right.
- From Interstate I-75 exit 95, take Hwy. 627 east for 1.6 miles to field on right.

Mercer County

-  From Bluegrass Parkway exit 59, take U.S. 127 south to Lower Clay Lick Road for 0.5 mile. Follow signs to parking area. *Closed Sept. 1-5 for Mentor/Youth Hunt on Sept. 5; call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations.*

Nelson County

• From the Bluegrass Parkway exit 25 and travel Hwy 150 towards Bardstown. Go 0.25 mile to a left onto Pottershop Loop Rd., take first left onto to Pottershop Rd. Travel 2 miles to field on right.

Owen County

• Kentucky River WMA, Chesney tract: Hwy. 355, east of Old Landing Rd. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.*

Shelby County

• U.S. 60 to Hwy. 395, travel north about 3 miles, take left onto Hwy. 1005 for 2 miles, then left onto Harley Thompson Rd. for 0.25 mile to field on right.

NORTHEASTERN KENTUCKY

Bath County

- Clay WMA, Justice Tract: From I-64 at exit 110, take KY 11 north for 17.8 miles to a left onto Little Flat-Ledford Rd. Travel 0.7 mile to parking area on right.
- From Owingsville, take Hwy. 111 north for 6.5 miles. Field on right on Old Wyoming Road.

Carter and Elliott counties

- Grayson Lake WMA, Frazier Flats Unit: From I-64 at Grayson, take Hwy. 7 south for 7.5 miles to a left onto Hwy. 1496 for 4 miles. Turn right onto Hwy. 1122 (Little Fork) for 3.3 miles, then right onto Wells Branch Rd. for 2.6 miles. Turn left at intersection and travel 0.2 mile to WMA parking area.

Fleming County

- Marietta Booth tract of Clay WMA: From Carlisle take Hwy. 32 east for about 12 miles then right at WMA sign.

Go 0.3 mile to WMA parking area on left.

Greenup County

- South Shore WMA: From South Shore take U.S. 23 east to a left (north) at the South Shore WMA sign for 0.4 mile. Field is adjacent to parking area. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.*

Johnson County

- Paintsville Lake WMA (Auxier Flats): From Paintsville, take KY 40 West to KY 172 West. Go 3.2 miles then turn left onto Stone Coal Road. After 1.4 miles, turn left onto Glade Branch Road and continue until it ends at a parking lot with signage. Hunters with four-wheel-drive trucks may continue onto the parking area closer to the dove field. Those with two-wheel-drive vehicles will need to walk the remaining distance – approximately half a mile – to the field.

Nicholas County

- From Millersburg, take U.S. 68 north-east 1 mile to a right onto Hwy. 396 (Carpenter Pike) and travel 2.8 miles to farm on left.

Pike County

- Fishtrap Lake WMA: From U.S. 23 south of Pikeville, take U.S. 460 east for about 15.2 miles. Turn left and proceed about 3.2 miles to field.

SOUTHEASTERN KENTUCKY

Green County

- From Greensburg take Hwy. 61 north for 8.1 miles, turn left onto Hwy. 569 for 5.3 miles, then right onto Hwy. 566. Travel 1.4 miles to fields on both sides of the road.



From Greensburg, U.S. 68 south for 7.3 miles to a right onto Hwy. 218 for 2.1 miles, then left onto Roy Bagby Rd. for 0.7 mile to field at end of road on right. *Closed Sept. 1-5 for Mentor/Youth Hunt; call 1-800-858-1549 for reservations.*

Lincoln County

- From Stanford, take U.S. 27 north for 0.16 mile to a left onto Hwy. 590. Travel 1.5 miles to a gravel lane marked by yellow dove field sign. Turn left and proceed to marked parking area.

Pulaski County

- Daniel Boone National Forest: Three fields. From Somerset, take U.S. 27 south for 8.5 miles to a right onto Hwy. 751 (Keno Rd.) for 4.4 miles to left onto Dead Ox Hollow Rd. for 0.6 mile to Field 1 on left. Travel an additional 0.9 mile to Field 2 on the right and continue another 0.7 mile to Field 3 on right.

Taylor County

- Green River Lake WMA: From Campbellsville, take Hwy. 70 east for about 2.2 miles to dirt road on left (across from Hwy. 76).

REPORT A POACHER!

Call 1-800-25ALERT

(1-800-252-5378) to report wildlife law violators. This number is for reporting wildlife and boating violations or similar emergencies only. Operators are not equipped to handle routine requests for information or to transfer calls.

CLOSED AREAS

CLOSED TO MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

1) The main block of Robinson Forest WMA; 2) the portion of Grayson Lake WMA within three-quarters of a mile of the dam, the Deer Creek Branch, the shores of Camp Webb and the state park; 3) the Greenbrier Creek Branch of Yatesville Lake, including all islands, north of the mouth of Greenbrier Creek Branch; 4) Land Between The Lakes NRA from Sept. 30 - Nov. 30.

CLOSED TO WATERFOWL HUNTING

All designated goose refuge lakes

within the Western Kentucky coalfields are closed to all waterfowl hunting.

WATERFOWL REFUGES

The following areas are waterfowl refuges: portion of Lake Cumberland WMA including Wesley Bend (bounded by Fishing Creek, Fishing Creek Road and Beech Grove Road) and Yellowhole (bounded by Fishing Creek Road and Hickory Nut Road) are closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. Ohio River Waterfowl Refuge (From Smithland Lock and Dam upstream to powerline

crossing at river mile 911.5) is closed to hunting Oct. 15 - March 15 and Stewart Island is closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. On Peabody WMA, portions of Sinclair and Homestead mines as marked by signs are closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. On Sloughs WMA, the Sauerheber Unit is closed to the public Nov. 1-March 15 except the Crenshaw and Duncan tracts which are open for waterfowl hunting only. The area of Yellowbank WMA posted by signs is closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15.

SPECIAL WMA RESTRICTIONS

Wildlife Management Areas not listed here or in the "Closed Areas" section are open under statewide regulations.

BALLARD WMA and SWAN LAKE PORTION of BOATWRIGHT WMA (Ballard County)

Dove: Sept. 1 - Oct. 13, 2015
Snipe: Sept. 17 - Oct. 13, 2015
Rails, Gallinules: Sept. 1 - Oct. 13, 2015
No woodcock hunting permitted.

Areas designated by signs are closed to all hunting.

MILLER WELCH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY WMA (Madison County)

Dove: Sept. 1 - Oct. 13, 2015
Snipe: Sept. 17 - Oct. 13, 2015
No woodcock hunting permitted.

PIONEER WEAPONS AREAS

Breech- and muzzle-loading shotguns

may be used to take wood ducks and teal on the shoreline portions of the Pioneer Weapons Areas at 1) Cave Run Lake, and 2) all waterfowl at Barren River Lake.

WEST KENTUCKY WMA (McCracken County)

Dove, snipe and woodcock: Open under statewide seasons, except closed during deer gun seasons. (*WMA closed to September Canada goose season.*)

OTHER HUNTING AREAS

The following areas have special seasons and regulations for all hunting. Contact the individual areas at the addresses and telephone numbers listed below.

CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

P.O. Box 89, Benton, KY 42025
(270) 527-5770

FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION

Outdoor Recreation Branch, Bldg. 6645

101st Airborne Div. Ave.
Ft. Campbell, KY 42223-5000
(270) 798-2175

FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION

Hunt Control Office
Fort Knox, KY 40121-5719
(502) 624-7311

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

100 Van Morgan Dr.

Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001
(270) 924-2065

OHIO RIVER ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

3982 Waverly Rd.,
Williamstown, WV 26187
(304) 375-2923, ext. 117

REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

4343 Hwy. 157, Union City, TN 38261
(731) 538-2481

YOUTH HUNTING

MENTOR/YOUTH DOVE HUNTS

Fields set aside for Mentor/Youth hunts are open Sept. 5 only to pre-registered hunters only (except for Clark's River NWR). On this day, adult dove hunters can introduce a young hunter to the challenge and tradition of the early season dove hunt. Hunts require pre-registration (see **rules** below for details). Thereafter, unreserved slots will be available on a first come, first served basis. Mentor/Youth dove fields on wildlife management areas reopen to the public Sept. 6, while private fields operated by the department reopen for general public hunting Sept. 6 as well. The following rules describe the hunt.

MENTOR/YOUTH HUNT RULES

1. Open only to adults accompanied by a youth (ages 15 and under), though not necessary for the youth to hunt.

- Both mentor and youth can hunt, but must do so from the same field location (stake). All hunters must stay within 15 feet of their assigned shooting location. One adult may take two youths to these hunts. Two shotguns are allowed per stake. Each hunter is allowed 15 doves.
- The number of hunters in Mentor/Youth Hunt fields will be strictly limited to ensure a safe and quality hunt.
- Field slots will be available only by advanced registration from 8 a.m. EDT Aug. 10, until 4:30 p.m. EDT, Aug. 21; call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Unreserved slots will be available on a first come, first served basis at the field on the day of the hunt until all slots are filled.
- Hunting groups *must check in prior to hunting and check out prior to leaving* the field with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff.

- After the field is filled no new hunting groups will be allowed in.
- Hunting groups in the field may move to different staked sites when the assigned group vacates that site.
- Hunters *must* leave their guns at their shooting location (stake) when retrieving downed birds.
- Shooting hours limited to 2-7 p.m., local time. All hunting groups must be out of the field by 7:30 p.m., local time.
- All hunters will be responsible for cleaning up their shooting location (including empty shells) prior to leaving the field.
- Mentors and youth must conduct themselves in a safe manner and abide by these and other rules posted at the hunt field. Failure to do so will result in termination of hunting privilege for that field that day.
- Hunter education and licensing requirements apply.