



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **National Conservation Easement Database Released** *KSNPC compiles data for Kentucky*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (Dec. 19, 2011) – A collaborative effort among five leading conservation organizations has resulted in the National Conservation Easement Database (NCED), which represents the most complete easement dataset for the United States, providing information on more than 80,000 easements that equate to 17.8 million acres.

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) served as the lead data aggregator for easement data in Kentucky. Data was gathered from federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations that hold easements.

“The NCED is a vital nationwide tool for regional planning and conservation efforts. This information enables land trusts, non-profits and government agencies to know which lands are already protected, and to identify critical lands that would benefit from protection, enabling them to use their limited resources more effectively,” said Don Dott, executive director of KSNPC.

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements that landowners enter into with government agencies or non-profit land trusts. These agreements are used to protect pristine natural areas, as well as, working forests and farm lands. Protecting forests, wetlands and riparian areas along lakes, rivers and streams preserves wildlife habitat and conserves essential natural resources that provide clean air and drinking water. Easements provide long-term and even perpetual protection, and are one of the most widely used methods of conserving land.

The data are free and can be accessed online at [www.conservationeasement.us](http://www.conservationeasement.us) and if your organization has easements in Kentucky not currently in NCED, contact KSNPC by email to [naturepreserves@ky.gov](mailto:naturepreserves@ky.gov) or call 502-573-2886.

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