

Mighty Oaks

For as long as I can remember, I loved going through the forest and just consuming the atmosphere of the environment and the smell of the trees; especially the Red Oak Trees. I love the “earthy spice” scent the bark would give off if you chipped it as if you were cutting open a citrus fruit. It's also a tradition on my mom’s side of our family tradition to make homemade bourbon and bourbon barrels. Oak trees are used in Kentucky to make bourbon barrels. Most people don’t realize how important Oak trees are to Kentucky’s economy and environment.

Like I mentioned before, Oak Trees have an effect on Kentucky’s economy. Kentucky is famous for its bourbon and oak trees are used to make the barrels for the bourbon. Of course, Oak trees are economically used for lumber, furniture, firewood, and some remedies, but Oak trees also grow acorns that were used by Native Americans for making Acorn flour. There are over 22 different species of Oak trees recognized in Kentucky alone and some of the oldest trees in Kentucky so happen to be Oak.

Even though there is a large quantity of Oak Trees, deforestation could easily affect the population of Oak trees in Kentucky. Logging is a very common problem in Kentucky because after loggers get done with a certain section they logged, they don’t replant seeds so that trees would grow back and that leads to a bigger problem throughout the world: Deforestation. Not just Oak Trees but trees, in general, produce the oxygen we have on earth to keep organisms alive. If we humans increase the chances of a deforestation problem in Kentucky and throughout the world, there would be a lower percentage of oxygen on earth.

As humans, we must think of others too; including animals and plants. Oak Trees are a common habitat and food supply for birds, squirrels, bears, insects, and more. Oak Trees are equally as important to us as important to animals and plants, maybe more. Because Oak Trees are common in Kentucky, they are also a habitat for the majority of animals in Kentucky.

One thing I've realized while writing this essay is the realization of how important Oak trees are and how Oak Trees affect Kentucky generally. I hope this essay encourages people to take action on protecting Oak trees and informing others about their importance to Kentucky's environment and economy.

Sources

EXPLORING KENTUCKY'S MIGHTY OAKS Booklet