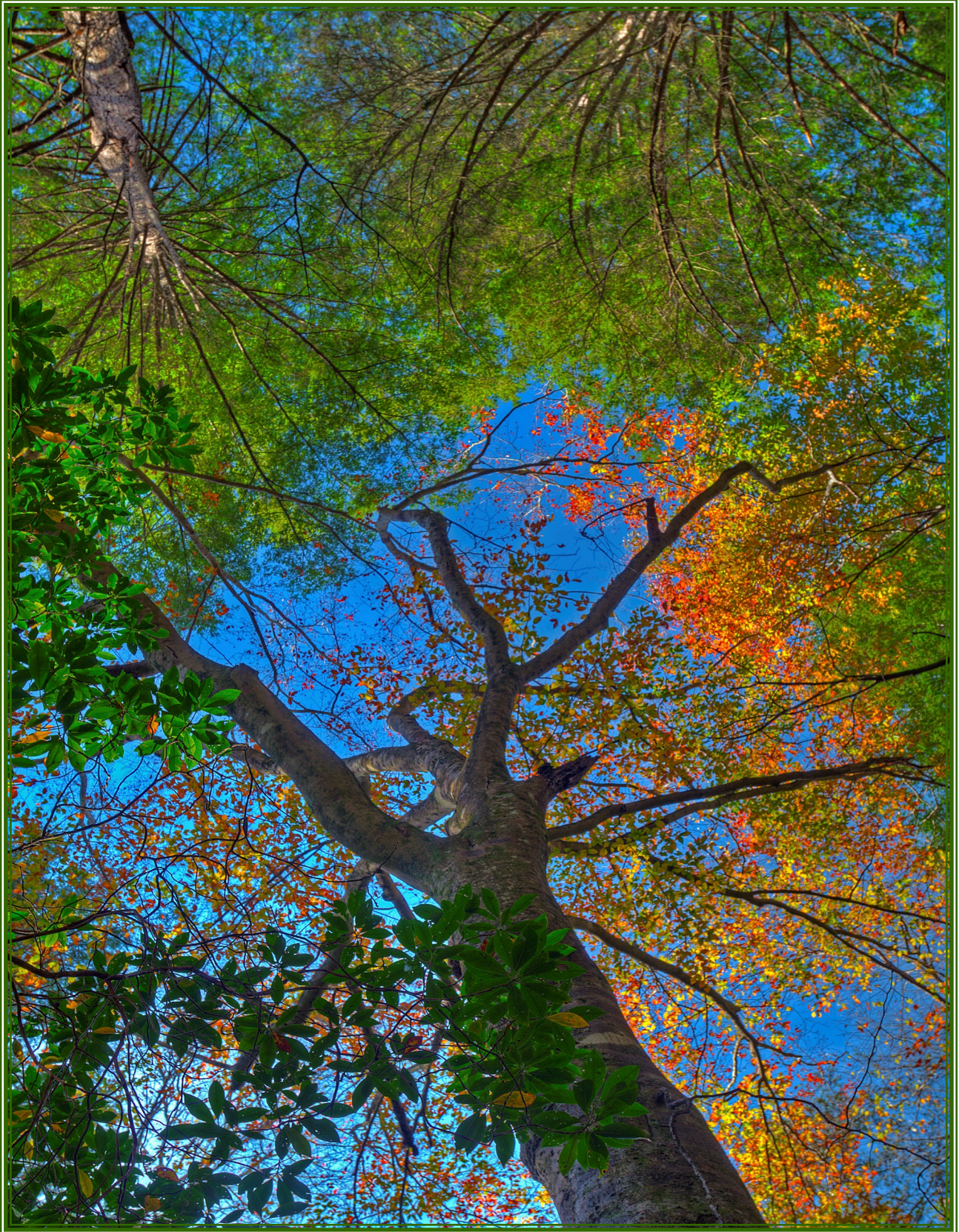


ANNUAL REPORT FY 2015



**KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND
CONSERVATION FUND**

**Cover Photo - Blanton Forest SNP from the book *Kentucky, Naturally:*
The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work
By Thomas G. Barnes**

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Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund web-site:
<http://heritageland.ky.gov>

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<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyHeritageLands>

KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Kentucky has an invaluable natural heritage recognized nationally and internationally for its outstanding, productive, biologically and geologically diverse lands and waters. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund is committed to protecting these diverse lands and “Keeping Kentucky Green” by awarding grant funds to purchase and preserve the state’s natural lands in perpetuity for enjoyment by this and future generations.

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund dollars have been awarded to protect and conserve some of Kentucky’s best known natural areas: old-growth hardwoods at Blanton Forest in eastern Kentucky; savannah woodlands at Griffith Woods as well as parts of the Kentucky River Palisades in central Kentucky; urban forests at the Jefferson Memorial Forest in the state’s largest city; bat populations and caves in southern Kentucky; cliff-lined valleys along the banks of the Martin’s Fork Wild River in Harlan County; and diverse watershed and wetland areas with endangered mussel species at the Green River State Forest in the western part of the state.

From the book *Kentucky, Naturally:
The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work*
By Thomas G. Barnes



Letter from Dr. Richard K. Kessler, KHLCF Chairman

The KHLCF continues to recover from budget cuts in the 2014 budget and new project application proposals are being considered once again. A combination of revenue along with refunds from some project withdrawals have contributed to this. In addition, license plate sales have been relatively “steady” in spite of media reports questioning whether citizens should buy them. These continued sales will help us recover from past cuts even more rapidly and indicate a strong base of supports for KHLCF and the nature’s finest plates.

Nevertheless the next budget cycle is always around the bend and as we look forward to a better FY 16 we hope the budget cuts of the past will be just that- in the past. With this in mind I would like to share with you an excerpt from an op-ed article I wrote for the Courier-Journal last March:

The nearly 130 sites in 67 counties protected solely or in part by KHLCF over the past 20 years provide our citizens with opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing and paddling. Some protect a number of the most critically endangered plants and animals in the commonwealth. From the developing Pine Mountain Trail (Kentucky’s version of the Appalachian Trail), to the rivers, forests and wetlands of our state, all of these sites supported by KHLCF add to the quality of life enjoyed by citizens of the commonwealth. However, the threats to unprotected resources or sites continue to grow while funding for the state’s primary source of conservation dollars continues to decline.

As reported in recent Courier-Journal articles, the most significant decline occurred recently as a result of the Kentucky legislature passing the governor’s budget slashing \$8 million from restricted (non-general fund) KHLCF funds over 2 fiscal years with no promise of recouping these funds. To add insult to injury, Kentucky already trails virtually every other neighboring state in its commitment to conservation funding.

These recent cuts occurred in spite of the fact that a 2013 study funded by The Trust for Public Land and Conserve Kentucky concluded that 82 percent of Kentuckians think conservation funding should either stay the same or be increased. This same study showed that for every \$1 of KHLCF funds invested over \$8 in economic benefit is returned to the commonwealth. That should be welcome news to the 77 percent of voters in the study who believe we can have a clean environment and a strong economy at the same time.

A few years ago I attended the Kentucky Author Forum in Louisville when well-known conservationist Jeff Corwin interviewed the respected natural science author Richard Ellis regarding his latest book. *On Thin Ice* was a commentary on the status and future security of the polar bear. Near the end of the interview, Corwin asked Ellis how he really felt about chances that the polar bear would escape extinction. Ellis’ response was that he had little hope for the polar bear because “not enough people care.”

It is obvious that Kentuckians care about conservation. So perhaps the real question is: What are our legislators and governor’s office willing to do about it?

Here’s hoping we can work to address the serious issue of conservation funding (or lack of) for our state before the next budget session.

Sincerely,



Richard K. Kessler
KHLCF Board Chair

Mission

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) is the primary source of state funding for the purchase of natural areas and is committed to protecting and conserving our Commonwealth's precious natural areas for enjoyment by this and future generations. Each property funded by the KHLCF is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement or deed restriction.

The fund was established by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Act in 1990. This legislation established priorities for property acquisitions including:

- natural areas that possess unique features such as habitat for rare and endangered species;
- areas important to migratory birds;
- areas that perform important natural functions subject to alteration or loss;
- areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education.

The fund is managed by the 12-member Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board appointed by the governor. Revenue for the fund comes from the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental fines, sale of Kentucky nature license plates and interest.

By statute the Environmental Education Council receives \$150,000 of environmental fines each year for environmental education programs and the Department for Energy Development and Independence receives \$400,000 of unmined minerals tax for the purpose of public education of coal-related issues. These funds are not part of the KHLCF program, but the KHLCF handles their initial financial transfers administratively. This is reflected in the *Financial Information* section of this report.

Organizationally and administratively, the KHLCF is attached to the Department for Natural Resources.

KHLCF funds are distributed quarterly as follows by statute:

- 10% Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**
- 10% Department of Parks**
- 10% Division of Forestry**
- 10% Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission**
- 10% Kentucky Division of Water, Wild Rivers Program**
- 50% Local Governments, State Colleges, Universities, Nonprofit Trust Organizations and Other Public Agencies**

To receive program funding, eligible agencies must submit an application identifying the priority the project addresses; an enumeration of costs; a budget indicating how at least 10 percent of the acquisition cost will be spent for management; and a preliminary resource management plan for the project. During FY 2015, the board held four regularly scheduled quarterly meetings to consider applications for funding.

If the project is approved, each agency has two years to acquire the property unless an extension to purchase is submitted for approval by the board. Agencies have two and one - half years after the property is purchased to submit a final resource management plan for review and approval.



Wood thrush banded as part of a KHLCF biological inventory.
Photo by Zeb Weese

KHLCF Accomplishments

Since 1995, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board has played an integral part in helping state agencies, local governments, and state colleges and universities protect and conserve 87,858.73 acres of Kentucky's natural areas and habitats. To date, the fund has provided financial support, in whole or in part, to acquire 130 sites in 67 counties. There have been 76,206.21 acres conserved by state agencies and / or multiple-agency partnerships, 9782.55 acres conserved by local governments and conservation districts, and 1,985.70 acres conserved by universities.

| Summary of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Efforts as of 1995 - June 2015 | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Applicant | Number of Projects | Acreage Conserved | Funding* |
| Fish and Wildlife Resources | 8 | 40,701.18 | \$ 7,805,255.59 |
| Division of Forestry | 5 | 3,166.56 | \$ 4,609,787.85 |
| State Nature Preserves Commission | 32 | 9,943.86 | \$ 7,884,358.59 |
| Department of Parks | 11 | 2,583.37 | \$ 3,816,762.76 |
| Division of Water, Wild Rivers | 8 | 5,030.15 | \$ 6,566,797.02 |
| Multiple Agency Partners | 6 | 14,781.09 | \$ 11,673,455.86 |
| County Governments | 29 | 6,815.68 | \$ 12,349,824.82 |
| City Governments | 8 | 526.19 | \$ 1,603,725.25 |
| Metro Governments | 6 | 956.24 | \$ 3,145,735.45 |
| Colleges/Universities | 7 | 1,985.70 | \$ 4,714,733.15 |
| Conservation Districts | 8 | 1,484.44 | \$ 4,548,216.66 |
| Totals: | 130 | 87,974.46 | \$ 64,039,635.64 |

**Includes both acquisition and management costs.*

A list of all properties purchased in whole or in part with KHLCF funding appears on pages 13-15. Since 1995, the board has approved 250 projects in 73 counties.



Phlox at Morning View Heritage Land
Photo by ZebWeese

FY 2015 Purchased Properties

In FY 2015 a total of 1394.53 acres of Kentucky's natural lands in eight different counties were conserved with funding assistance from the KHLCF.

| FY 2015 KHLCF ACQUISITIONS | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| PROJECT | AGENCY | COUNTY | ACRES |
| Burnett WWCA - Garrison Tract | DOW | McCreary | 136.55 |
| Blanton Forest SNP - Gaines Tract | KSNPC | Harlan | 386 |
| Ballard WMA - Harper Tract | KDFWR | Ballard | 256 |
| Big Bone Lick State Park - Piner Tract | PARKS | Boone | 236 |
| Lone Oak SNP - Reynolds Tract | KSNPC | Grayson | 33.53 |
| Jefferson Memorial Forest - Greenwell Tract | Louisville Metro Parks | Jefferson | 24.055 |
| Morningview Heritage Land - Dunn Tract | Kenton Co Conservation District | Kenton | 18.2 |
| Clay Hill Memorial Forest - Straley Tract | Campbellsville University | Taylor | 50 |
| Lily Mountain Nature Preserve- Arvin & Hughes Tracts | Estill Co Conservation District | Estill | 211.61 |
| Total: | | | 1,351.94 |

Acronym Legend:

Wildlife Management Area—WMA

Conservation easement—CE

State Nature Preserve—SNP

Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area—WWCA

State Forest—SF



Snow geese at Ballard County WMA from the book *Kentucky, Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* by Thomas G. Barnes

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2015

| County | Project | Agency | Acres |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------|
| Allen | Carpenter Cave CE | KSNPC | 14.30 |
| Ballard | Axe Lake Swamp SNP | KSNPC | 311.99 |
| Ballard | Ballard WMA– Harper Tract | KDFWR | 256 |
| Ballard | Boatwright WMA | KDFWR | 1,177.00 |
| Barren | Brigadoon SNP | KSNPC | 91.88 |
| Barren | Mutter's Cave CE | KSNPC | 108.28 |
| Bell | Kentucky Ridge SF/WMA | KDF and KDFWR | 3,782.38 |
| Bell, Pike, Harlan, Letcher | Pine Mountain Scenic Trail | Kentucky State Parks | 553.48 |
| Boone | Boone Cliffs | Boone County Fiscal Court | 75.42 |
| Boone | Big Bone Lick State Park—Piner Tract | Kentucky State Parks | 236 |
| Boone | Dinsmore Woods | Boone County Fiscal Court | 104.52 |
| Boone | Gunpowder Creek | Boone County Fiscal Court | 125.98 |
| Boyle | Perryville Battlefield | Kentucky State Parks | 75.81 |
| Breckinridge | Wildlife Education Park | Breckinridge County Fiscal Court | 25.19 |
| Breckinridge | Yellowbank WMA | KDFWR | 1,332.31 |
| Bullitt | Apple Valley Glades SNP | KSNPC | 69.23 |
| Bullitt | Knobs State Forest | KDF | 1,539.59 |
| Calloway | Blood River SNP | KSNPC | 192.56 |
| Calloway | Fort Heiman | Calloway County Fiscal Court | 167.00 |
| Campbell | Hawthorne Crossing | Campbell Conservation District | 134.69 |
| Campbell | St. Anne Woods | Campbell Conservation District | 165.00 |
| Carter | Carter Caves State Park | Kentucky State Parks | 107.54 |
| Carter | Olive Hill Reservoir | City of Olive Hill | 214.64 |
| Carter | Tygart's State Forest | KDF | 255.03 |
| Christian | Bob Overton Cave | KSNPC | 54.82 |
| Christian, Caldwell | Pennyryle State Forest | KDF | 200.57 |
| Clark | Civil War Earthenworks Fort | Clark County Fiscal Court | 25.38 |
| Clark | Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve | Clark County Fiscal Court | 346.59 |
| Daviess | Greenbelt Trail | City of Owensboro | 25.00 |
| Daviess | Yellow Creek Park | Daviess County Fiscal Court | 1.43 |
| Estill | Lily Mountain | Estill Conservation District | 349.54 |
| Estill | Lily Mountain Expansion | Estill Co Conservation District | 211.61 |
| Fayette | Raven Run Nature Sanctuary | LFUCG | 353.38 |
| Fleming | Clay Wildlife WMA | KDFWR | 811.03 |
| Fleming | Park Lake Mountain | Fleming County Fiscal Court | 821.13 |
| Fleming | Short's Goldenrod SNP | KSNPC | 209.89 |
| Franklin | Cove Springs Park | City of Frankfort | 96.99 |
| Franklin | Feindel CE | KSNPC | 65.74 |
| Franklin | Julian Savanna SNP | KSNPC | 42.43 |
| Franklin | River Cliffs SNP | KSNPC | 210.19 |
| Franklin | Rockcress Hills SNP | KSNPC | 66.66 |
| Franklin | Swallowfield Baxley Easement | KSNPC | 64.35 |
| Garrard | Tom Dorman SNP | KSNPC | 802.95 |

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2015

| County | Project | Agency | Acres |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Graves | Terrapin Creek SNP | KSNPC | 98.60 |
| Grayson | Lone Oak Glade—Reynolds Tract | KSNPC | 33.53 |
| Green | Glenview Nature Preserve | Green County Fiscal Court | 168.07 |
| Green | Wyatt Jeffries Woods | Green County Fiscal Court | 57.15 |
| Hardin | Eastview Barrens SNP | KSNPC | 119.14 |
| Hardin | Jim Scudder SNP | KSNPC | 172.66 |
| Hardin | Springhouse Barrens SNP | KSNPC | 55.78 |
| Harlan | Blanton Forest SNP | KSNPC | 1,246.00 |
| Harlan | Hi Lewis Barrens SNP | KSNPC | 302.00 |
| Harlan | James E. Bickford SNP | KSNPC | 347.84 |
| Harlan | Kentonia State Forest | KDF | 762.03 |
| Harlan | Martin's Fork SNA | KDOW | 1,624.41 |
| Harlan | Stone Mountain SNA | KSNPC/KDFWR | 1,025.49 |
| Harlan | Blanton Forest—Gaines Tract | KSNPC | 386 |
| Harrison | Griffith Woods WMA | KDFWR | 391.37 |
| Hart | Davis Bend | KDOW | 165.00 |
| Hart | Frenchman's Knob | Hart County Fiscal Court | 64.00 |
| Hart | Hidden River Cave | City of Horse Cave | 9.41 |
| Hart | Rush Island Bottoms | KDOW | 160.00 |
| Hart | Upper Green River Biological Reserve | Western Kentucky University | 1,524.67 |
| Henderson | Green River State Forest | KDF | 409.34 |
| Henderson | John James Audubon State Park | Kentucky State Parks | 15.83 |
| Henry | KSU Environmental Education and Research Center | Kentucky State University | 305.99 |
| Henry, Owen | Kentucky River WMA | KDFWR | 533.28 |
| Hickman | Obion Creek and Murphy's Pond SNP | KSNPC | 198.72 |
| Hickman | Three Ponds SNP | KSNPC | 528.25 |
| Hickman, Fulton | Obion Creek and Latourneau Woods WMA | KDFWR | 1,640.19 |
| Jefferson | Jefferson Memorial Forest additions | Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov | 625.09 |
| Jefferson | Peterson Forest | Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov | 98.13 |
| Jefferson | Pope Lick Park (Tyler Schooling tract) | Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov | 214.65 |
| Jefferson | Putney Pond and Woodlands | City of Prospect | 24.31 |
| Jefferson | Jefferson Memorial Forest | Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov | 24 |
| Jessamine | Camp Nelson | Jessamine County Fiscal Court | 58.53 |
| Jessamine | Jessamine Creek Gorge | Jessamine County Fiscal Court | 268.77 |
| Kenton | Morningview | Kenton County Conservation District | 204.41 |
| Kenton | Morningview—Dunn Tract | Kenton County Conservation District | 18.2 |
| Larue | LaRue County Environmental Education Center | Larue County Fiscal Court | 191.00 |
| Larue | Lincoln Boyhood Home | Larue County Fiscal Court | 224.97 |
| Larue | Thompson Creek Glade SNP | KSNPC | 105.26 |
| Laurel | Rockcastle Wild River Corridor - Sinking Creek | KDOW | 300.97 |
| Laurel | Whitley Branch Preservation | City of London | 75.57 |
| Letcher | Bad Branch SNP | KSNPC | 1,046.94 |
| Lewis | Crooked Creek SNP | KSNPC | 693.47 |
| Lincoln | Bouteloua Barrens SNP | KSNPC | 261.00 |

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2014

| County | Project | Agency | Acres |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Lincoln | William Whitley House | Kentucky State Parks | 80.24 |
| Livingston | Livingston County WMA | Livingston County Fiscal Court | 2429.92 |
| Logan | Baker Natural Area | Logan Conservation District | 66.15 |
| Marion | Marion County WMA | KDFWR, Marion County, KDF | 1,293.20 |
| McCracken | Perkins Creek | City of Paducah | 80.27 |
| McCreary | Little South Fork - Garrison Tract | DOW | 136.55 |
| McCreary | Cumberland Falls State Park | Kentucky State Parks | 119.00 |
| Menifee | Broke Leg Falls | Menifee County Fiscal Court | 14.82 |
| Metcalfe | Dry Fork Gorge | Metcalfe County Fiscal Court | 79.97 |
| Metcalfe, Cumberland | Marrowbone State Forest* | KDF and KDFWR | 1,955.47 |
| Monroe | Old Mulkey Meeting House | Kentucky State Parks | 19.02 |
| Muhlenberg, Hopkins, Ohio | Peabody WMA* | KDFWR | 34,560.00 |
| Ohio | Highview Hill | Ohio County Fiscal Court | 256.71 |
| Ohio | Nature Park | Ohio County Fiscal Court | 191.25 |
| Oldham | Morgan Conservation Park | Oldham County Fiscal Court | 227.59 |
| Powell | Natural Bridge State Park | Kentucky State Parks | 471.00 |
| Powell | Pilot Knob | Powell County Fiscal Ct. | 515.93 |
| Pulaski | Buck Creek Preserve | Pulaski County Fiscal Court | 35.26 |
| Pulaski | Hazeldell Meadow | Pulaski County Fiscal Court | 39.35 |
| Pulaski | Mount Victory Seeps | KSNPC | 150.43 |
| Pulaski | WH Martin Wildlife and Watershed Conservation Area | KDOW | 458.96 |
| Robertson, Nicholas, Fleming | Blue Licks State Park* | Kentucky State Parks | 905.45 |
| Shelby | Clear Creek Park Greenway | Shelby County Fiscal Court | 27.02 |
| Shelby | Shelby Trails Park Addition | Shelby County Fiscal Court | 75.00 |
| Simpson | Flat Rock Glade | KSNPC | 29.97 |
| Taylor | Clay Hill Memorial Forest | Campbellsville University | 103.00 |
| Taylor | Clay Hill Memorial Forest - Straley | Campbellsville University | 50 |
| Taylor | Tebbs Bend | Taylor County Fiscal Court | 172.14 |
| Union, Crittenden | Big Rivers Corridor* | KDFWR and KDF | 6,724.00 |
| Warren | Cave Springs | Western KY University | 2.01 |
| Warren | Lost River Cave | Warren County Fiscal Court | 2.25 |
| Wayne, McCreary | Little South Fork Corridor - Burnett & Self WWCA | KDOW | 1,883.00 |
| Whitley | Archer-Benge SNP* | KSNPC | 1,863.00 |
| Wolfe | Red Wild River Corridor | KDOW | 301.26 |
| | | TOTAL | 87,974.71 |

*Other funding sources used as match **All costs associated with these projects are for the protection, not purchase, of land.
Examples are conservation easements, surveys, mineral estates.

FY 2015 Stewardship Awards

At the September 2014 Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment the KHLCF presented the annual KHLCF Stewardship Awards to Eastern Kentucky University for their management of Lilley Cornett Woods and Pine Mountain Settlement School for their management of the James Bickford Nature Preserve, both funded in part by the KHLCF.



Lilley Cornett Woods was the first old growth forest remnant protected in Kentucky and is listed as a Registered Natural National Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The old growth forest occurs on 252 acres and has never been commercially logged. The old growth protects an excellent example of a mixed mesophytic forest with 72 woody plant species occupying this forest community. More than 530 plant species have been documented in various studies. Long term ecological and biological research investigations have taken place at Lilley Cornett Woods since the 1970s. The site is open to public only by guided tours by appointment through the ECU Division of Natural Areas.

Founded in 1913 as a boarding school for the elementary and middle school children of the southeastern Kentucky mountains, Pine Mountain Settlement School has a mission of providing environmental education and traditional arts and culture to more than 3,000 participants annually. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the nature preserve component of the school protects a high quality Appalachian mesic forest on the north slope of Pine Mountain and protects numerous rare species including state endangered fetterbush, state threatened American golden saxifrage, Loesel's twayblade, and state special concern rock harlequin in addition to the state special concern Masked shrew. In addition, several endemic cave invertebrates including Roger's cave beetle, scholarly cave beetle, and un-described cave-obligate freshwater isopod and un-described cave-obligate millipede are also found here. As with typical Appalachian mixed-mesophytic forest, no one tree species dominates the canopy and 27 tree species have been found in canopy, including many mature and large trees. More than 615 species of plants have been documented here and the spring wildflower display is diverse as more than 130 spring wildflowers including wood poppies, dwarf larkspur, spotted and yellow mandarin, large flowered trillium and purple wake robins, large flowered bellwort, wild geranium, bloodroot, dwarf crested iris, and speckled wood lily occur in abundance.



Site descriptions adopted from the book *Kentucky, Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* by Thomas G. Barnes

FY 2015 Approved Projects

A total of 11 project applications were reviewed by the KHLCF Board in FY 2015, and 10 were approved at some level of funding. Funding awards totaling \$1,691,522 were approved for the proposed acquisition and management of more than 1,000 acres located throughout the state out of a total of \$2,668,010.00 requested. Local governments/university projects were approved in Letcher, Clark, and Fleming counties. State agency projects were approved in Harlan, Bell, Bullitt, Nicholas, Whitley, Letcher counties.

Funds came from current year receipts plus funds from previously approved projects that could not be acquired. All funding awarded was for land purchase and associated pre-acquisition costs (appraisals, title, and survey work). No management activities were funded for these new projects.

| GRANTS AWARDED | COUNTY | AWARD |
|---|----------|---------------------|
| Competitive | | |
| Lower Howard's Creek - Clark Fiscal Court—Hegeman Tract | Clark | |
| Park Lake Nature Preserve—Fleming Fiscal Court—Browning Tract | Fleming | |
| Park Lake Nature Preserve—Fleming County—Wildcat Hollow | Fleming | |
| Lilley Cornett Woods—Eastern Kentucky University—Expansion 2 Additional Funds | Letcher | |
| Total Competitive | | \$ 255,400 |
| State Agency Grants | | |
| Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission | | |
| Blanton Forest SNP-Gaines Tract Additonal Funds | Harlan | |
| Bad Branch SNP– Wagner additional funds | Letcher | |
| Total Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission | | \$ 51,322 |
| Department of Parks | | |
| Pine Mountain Trail—Chained Rock Preaquisition | Bell | |
| Blue Licks State Park-Kingsolver Tract | Nicholas | |
| Cumberland Falls Land Swap | Whitley | |
| Total Department of Parks | | \$ 84,800 |
| Division of Forestry | | |
| Knobs State Forest -Kuhns/KNLT Additon | Bullitt | |
| Total Division of Forestry | | \$ 1,300,000 |
| Total State Agencies | | \$ 1,436,122 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | \$ 1,691,522 |

FY 2015 Approved Projects

A total of 11 project applications were reviewed by the KHLCF Board in FY 2015. Funding awards totaling \$1,705,721.77 were approved for the proposed acquisition and management of more than 1,000 acres located throughout the state out of a total of \$2,668,010.00 requested. Local governments/university projects were approved in Letcher, Clark, and Fleming counties. State agency projects were approved in Harlan, Bell, Bullitt, Nicholas, Whitley, Letcher counties.

Local Governments, Universities, and Nonprofit Land Trusts

Lilly Cornett Woods—Expansion 2—Eastern Kentucky University

Letcher County's Lilly Cornett Woods is one of only two old-growth forests left in Kentucky. Managed by Eastern Kentucky University since the 1970's, "Lilley's Woods" is host to many long-term ecological research and biodiversity oriented projects. This grant award was to acquire mineral rights to the previously awarded Ledford-Craig project. ECU received the 2015 KHLCF Stewardship Award for management of the previously funded property at Lilly Cornett Woods.

Lower Howard's Creek—Hegeman Tract—Clark County Fiscal Court

Lower Howard's Creek Preserve will add approximately 15 acres to the previous acquisitions. This will be devoted to preserve the natural and cultural resources near the Kentucky River. This property contains important water resources, gentle forested slopes, and an access road from a county road which will allow emergency access to the north-eastern reaches of the Preserve. This tract will be managed as part of the existing nature sanctuary and heritage interpretation preserve. Upon acquisition of this tract, the KHLCF will protect nearly 400 acres at Lower Howard's Creek. Clark County Fiscal Court received the 2011 KHLCF Stewardship Award for management of the previously funded property at Lower Howard's Creek.

Park Lake Mountain Nature Preserve—Browning Tract—Fleming County Fiscal Court

The Browning Tract will add an additional 40 acres to the previous acquisitions at Park Lake Mountain. This tract will be used for fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, educational timber identification and photography. The KHLCF already protects over 800 acres at Park Lake Mountain.

Park Lake Mountain Nature Preserve—Wildcat Hollow Tract—Fleming County Fiscal Court

The Wildcat Hollow Tract will add an additional 59 acres to the previous acquisitions at Park Lake Mountain. This tract will be used for hiking, wildlife viewing, educational timber identification and photography. The KHLCF already protects over 800 acres at Park Lake Mountain.

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Bad Branch SNP—Wagner Tract—Letcher County

The Wagner Tract will add approximately 125 acres to the nature preserve and protect additional acreage on the diverse north face of Pine Mountain. This would also allow protection of several rock shelters and head water streams to the north fork of the Kentucky River. This acquisition would provide a buffer for the preserve and the Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail.

Blanton Forest—Gaines Tract—Harlan County

The Gaines Tract is located on the south face of Pine Mountain protecting a second growth forest typical of the drier south face, and it encompasses portions of Sam Howard Branch and another unnamed stream. This project will add to the existing Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve that is currently protecting 3,124 acres of old growth and second growth forests. This project is a partnership with the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust.

FY 2015 Approved Projects

Kentucky State Parks

Blue Licks State Park—Kingsolver Tract—Fleming County

The Kingsolver Tract is approximately 16 acres that borders the Blue Lick Battlefield State Resort Park on US 68 and includes frontage on the Licking River. Approximately 10 acres are forest and 6 acres are fields. The main purpose of this property is to protect the natural scenery and encroachment issues upon the park boundary. The tract is adjacent to KHLCF tracts protecting the Federally endangered plant Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*).

Cumberland Falls Land Swap—Whitley and McCreary Counties

The United States Forest Service has approximately 342 wooded acres adjacent to Cumberland Falls State Resort Park in Whitley and McCreary Counties that will be exchanged for Kentucky Wild Rivers property in Laurel County. This tract will increase hiking trail access.

Pine Mountain Trail—Investigation—Bell County

Costs associated with investigating land in Bell County at Pine Mountain State Park.

Kentucky Division of Forestry

Knobs State Forest—Kuhns/KNLT Addition—Bullitt County

Kuhns/KNLT Addition is approximately 541 acres: 481 of upland forestland, 35 acres of native grass and 25 acres pasture lands. This will provide connectivity of the existing Knobs SF/WMA, Crooked Creek Boy Scout Camp, and Bernheim Forest and Arboretum. It is part of the larger Bernheim/Ft Knox Forest Corridor project. This grant will be used to match a federal Forest Legacy grant application.



Knobs State Forest from the book *Kentucky, Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* by Thomas G. Barnes

Financial Information

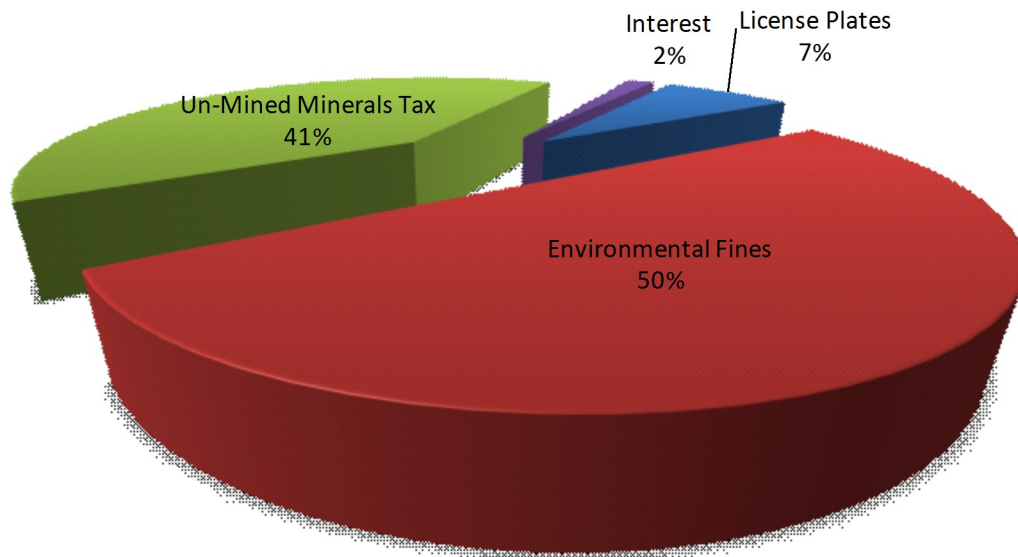
Funding for the KHLCF is generated from the sale of three nature license plates, the state portion of unmined mineral tax on coal, environmental fines, and interest income. For FY 2015 receipts were \$4,999,058.17, which does not include the \$550,000 the KHLCF transfers administratively to KEEC and DEDI by statute but is not part of the KHLCF program. The KEEC receives the first \$150,000 collected from environmental fines and DEDI receives the first \$400,000 of unmined minerals taxes and the KHLCF receives the remainder from both sources for natural areas land acquisition.

In FY 2015 the current state budget swept \$5,000,000 from the KHLCF into the state General Fund, therefore creating a deficit of \$941.83 for FY 2015. Awards made on pages 10-12 were made from a combination of revenue held over from previous years and funds returned from withdrawn projects.

The total revenue for FY 2015 was approximately \$678,934.43 greater than FY 2014 levels. As shown on the page 14 table, revenue generated from unmined mineral tax revenue decreased by \$389,853.47 and license plate sales revenue continued to decline as well; revenue generated from nature license plates sales fell by \$10,252 from FY 2014, while interest income increased by \$14,015.64 and environmental fines increased by roughly \$1,064,022.96

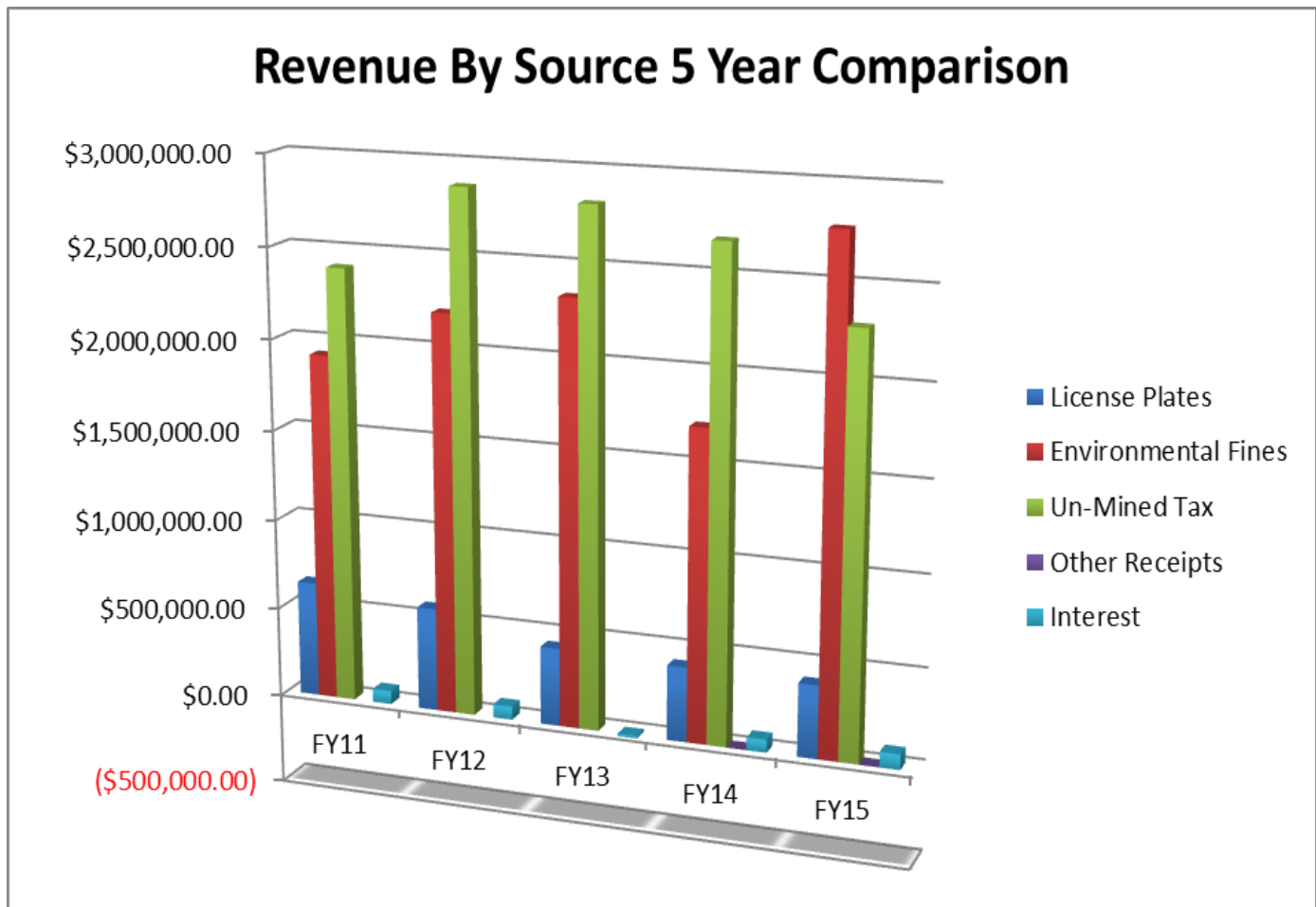
The table also demonstrates the volatility and unpredictability of our revenue sources from year to year. During the last five years, revenue from fines has seen a steady increase for four years and a sharp decrease in FY 2014, while revenues from unmined minerals has increased from FY 2009 to FY 2012, but decreased in FY 2013 to FY 2015.

FY 2015 Revenue By Source



KHLCF Revenue

| Revenue By Source 5 Year Comparison | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 5-Year Receipts by Source | FY11 | FY12 | FY13 | FY14 | FY15 |
| License Plates | \$638,470.00 | \$571,970.00 | \$431,100.00 | \$412,370.00 | \$402,118.00 |
| Environmental Fines | \$1,918,713.00 | \$2,199,707.55 | \$2,332,183.04 | \$1,709,372.74 | \$2,773,395.70 |
| Un-Mined Tax | \$2,399,253.00 | \$2,870,185.73 | \$2,820,757.75 | \$2,676,911.60 | \$2,287,058.13 |
| Other Receipts | | | | \$71.00 | \$945.00 |
| Interest | \$74,111.00 | \$74,110.72 | (\$14,432.57) | \$71,525.70 | \$85,541.34 |
| Statutory transfers to KEEC and DEDI | (\$550,000.00) | (\$550,000.00) | (\$550,000.00) | (\$550,000.00) | (\$550,000.00) |
| Transfer to General Fund | | | | | (\$5,000,000.00) |
| TOTAL | \$4,480,547.00 | \$5,360,734.00 | \$5,019,608.00 | \$4,320,251.00 | (\$941.83) |



KENTUCKY'S RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN THE KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND



TERRY COOK, DCR/JSR*, MARK GODFREY

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) has conserved over 86,000 acres in 125 sites across 67 counties. The Trust for Public Land conducted research summarizing and quantifying the economic benefits of KHLCF investments to local communities between 1998 and 2011.

Projects made possible by the KHLCF support hundreds of thousands of jobs across Kentucky. Additionally, for every \$1 invested in land and water conservation, \$8 in natural goods and services is returned to the Commonwealth of Kentucky according to The Trust for Public Land.

Realizing a Valuable Return on Investment: Natural Goods and Services

Natural lands and water resources conserved by KHLCF provide a host of economic benefits that have a measurable impact to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its communities. They include services such as drinking water protection, flood control, wildlife habitat, and air pollution removal.

- The Trust for Public Land conducted an analysis of the economic value of natural goods and services provided by KHLCF protected lands and waters between 1998 and 2011. For every \$1 of KHLCF funds invested, \$8 in economic benefits is returned to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.¹
- The results are consistent with similar studies conducted by The Trust for Public Land in over a dozen states that found comparable returns on investment in land and water conservation programs.

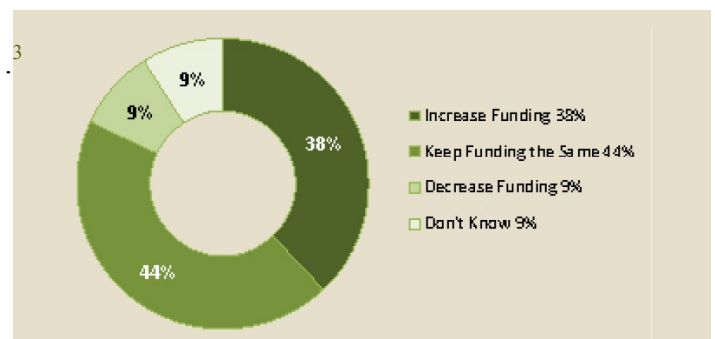
In addition to providing natural goods and services, KHLCF contributes to the Kentucky economy in terms of generating jobs and strengthening local economies,

providing clean water, and boosting the bottom line for local governments.

Generating Jobs and Strengthening Local Economies

The parks, trails, state forests, wildlife management areas, and nature preserves conserved with KHLCF funding supports the outdoor recreation and tourism industries.

- Outdoor recreation is a major component of Kentucky's economy. Each year it generates \$8.4 billion in consumer spending, \$552 million in state and local tax revenue, 105,000 jobs, and \$2.5 billion in wages and salaries in the state.²
- The tourism and travel industry contributed over \$12.2 billion to Kentucky's economy in 2012. Visitors supported 174,000 jobs in local communities accounting for \$2.7 billion in wages and salaries for Kentuckians. State and local governments received \$1.23 billion in tax revenue



82% of Kentuckians think conservation funding should stay the same or increase.

77% of voters believe we can have a clean environment and a strong economy at the same time.

Source: Bipartisan statewide voter survey conducted December 2013.

KHLCF Related Article

Providing Clean Water

Kentucky's forests and open lands play a vital role in the provision of clean drinking water supplies. They reduce the costs of treating wastewater and stormwater, as well as the costs of treating drinking water supplies.

- A study conducted in 2009 by the northern Kentucky Sanitation District No. 1 found that 'green' controls, such as protecting watershed lands, provide substantial improvements in water quality relative to their cost compared to traditional stormwater treatment controls to correct sewer overflows (i.e., pipe replacement and water treatment plants).⁴
- Costs of treating drinking water supplies have been found to be directly related to the amount of tree cover in the area. Specifically, costs are higher when there is less tree cover. An area with only 10 percent forested land had annual treatment costs of \$923,000 compared to \$297,000 for an area with 60 percent tree cover.⁵

Boosting the Bottom Line for Local Governments

Land and water conservation provides a fiscal benefit to both residents and municipalities through cost sav-

ings on infrastructure and services.

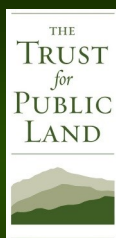
- Studies of Kentucky counties consistently show that unlike residential land, working and open lands generate more in public revenues than they receive back in public services. For example, for every \$1 paid in local taxes, working and open land in five Kentucky counties (i.e., Campbell, Kenton, Lexington-Fayette, Oldham, and Shelby) required an average of \$0.53 in services compared to an average of \$1.26 in services for the average home.⁶
- The national median across 151 communities over 25 years is that for every \$1 paid in local taxes, farmland and open space require \$0.35 in services compared to \$1.16 in services for the average home.⁷



KENTUCKY DIVISION OF WATER PHOTO

End notes

1. This analysis is based on the best available data at the time of publication. Ohio data were utilized for the underlying carbon storage and sequestration volumes for cropland, pasture, and grassland. For a full methodology description see "The Economic Benefits of Clean Ohio Fund Conservation" report available at <http://www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-clean-ohio-fund-conservation-report>. Sources: Molly Ingraham and Shonda Gilliland Foster, "The Value of Ecosystem Services Provided by the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System in the Contiguous U.S." (*Ecological Economics*, 67, 2008, pp. 608-618); Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, *Technical Support Document: - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866* (revised November 2013); M. Jarecki and L. Rattan, "Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Rates in Two Long-Term No-Till Experiments in Ohio" (*Soil Science* 170, no. 4, 2005, pp. 280-291); J. Lewandrowski, M. Peters, C. Jones, R. House, M. Sperow, M. Eve, and K. Paustian, *Economics of Sequestering Carbon in the U.S. Agricultural Sector* (USDA Economic Research Service, Technical Bulletin No. TB-1909, 2004); D. J. Nowak and E. J. Greenfield, *Urban and Community Forests of the South Central East Region*. (USDA Forest Service General Technical Report NRS-58, 2009); P. Puget and R. Lal, "Soil organic carbon and nitrogen in a Mollisol in central Ohio as affected by tillage and land use" (*Soil & Tillage Research* 80, no. 1-2, 2005, pp. 201-213); The Trust for Public Land, *Conservation Almanac* (Available at <http://www.conservationalmanc.org>); U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Grassland Reserve Program Rental Rates" (accessed February 26, 2014, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_026909.pdf); U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service, "Data and Statistics" (accessed February 26, 2014, http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/?sector_desc=ECONOMICS&commodity_desc=RENT&agg_level_desc=COUNTY&source_desc=SURVEY); and R. T. Woodward and Y. S. Wui, "The Economic Value of Wetland Services: A Meta-Analysis" (*Ecological Economics* 37, 2001, pp. 257-270).
2. Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy: Kentucky* (2012).
3. Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, *Economic Impact of Kentucky's Travel and Tourism Industry – 2011 and 2012* (Prepared by CERTEC, Inc. May 2013).
4. Third Rock Consultants, LLC, *Kentucky Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy* (Produced in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, 2010).
5. Ibid.
6. American Farmland Trust, *Cost of Community Services Fact Sheet* (Northampton, Massachusetts: Farmland Information Center, 2010).
7. Ibid.
- * KY State Tree, Tulip Poplar. By Dcrrjsr/Gallery of Duke Forest Plants from Wikimedia Commons. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liriodendron_tulipifera_tulip_close.jpg



For additional information, contact:

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Prepared by The Trust for Public Land with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Conserve Kentucky.

Kentucky Environmental Education Council



Kentucky Environmental Education Council Executive Summary FY 2015 Annual Report to the Heritage Conservation Land Fund Board

The Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) has the broad mandate of ensuring an environmentally literate citizenry by coordinating environmental education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Environmental literacy is defined as having the ability to recognize the components of healthy natural and man-made systems and the actions necessary to maintain, restore, or improve them. Agency resources and programs are designed to connect people to nature, increase awareness of and access to sustainability initiatives, and offer resources that help educators use the environment as a theme for teaching all subject areas. This report highlights some of KEEC's Fiscal Year 2015 accomplishments.

Land, Legacy and Learning IV

KEEC released *Land, Legacy and Learning IV*, which includes the 2015-2020 Master Plan for Environmental Education in Kentucky and the 2014 Survey of Kentuckians' Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors. Developed with the help of the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education and the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education, and more than 175 individuals who participated in 13 regional meetings across Kentucky, the 2015-2020 Master Plan outlines goals and objectives to guide the direction of environmental education in Kentucky, per KRS 157.915(1). As in previous iterations, the survey of Kentuckian's Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors indicated that 96% of Kentuckians believe that environmental education should be taught in schools. A significant percentage of Kentuckians do not connect personal actions with environmental impact, but do want to know about environmental problems.

Professional Environmental Educator Certification Course

The Kentucky Environmental Education Council offered the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course thanks in part to a \$10,000 grant from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky. The grant assisted KEEC with course expenses and provided scholarships for many of the 20 graduates of the 2014-15 course. Since 2004, KEEC has certified 186 environmental educators from across the Commonwealth. Certified educators work in state agencies, state parks, national parks, educational non-profits, nature centers and zoos, extension offices, schools, colleges and universities, libraries and other institutions that educate Kentuckians on their relationship to the natural world. The course follows the *Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators* created by the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education through the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). In July 2014, KEEC submitted its application to NAAEE for accreditation of the course. A decision on the application is expected in FY2016. Due to budget constraints, KEEC will be unable to offer the course in FY2016, but it is building a waiting list for FY2017 participants.

Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Program

The Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program is a project-based program that empowers students and faculty to improve the safety, health, and sustainability of their schools. Since KEEC started the program in 2007, 268 schools in 73 counties have enrolled. This year, KEEC proudly presented a total of eight awards to schools enrolled in the program, from Pikeville to Warren County. Leslie Meredith of Hardin County Schools received the teacher of the year award.

Pride Funds

Per KRS 224.43-500, KEEC distributed funds provided through a bond measure called the Pride fund to the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education. The funds are used to implement environmental education at the university level.

Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan

KEEC continues to lead implementation of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP), a collaborative effort between KEEC, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE), and several partner organizations. In FY2015, KAEE received several grants to support the KELP Implementation Advisory Team as it continues its ground-breaking work in correlating national environmental education standards with national education standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards. The KELP is available at keec.ky.gov/publications and correlation to the standards is explained at eelinked.naaee.net/n/guidelines.

Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education

Per KRS 157.915, the agency convenes an Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education (ISEE), which met quarterly in FY2015. Much of the committee work in this fiscal year focused on state agency implementation of the 2015-2020 Master Plan for Environmental Education. A list of active agency committee members is at keec.ky.gov/Meetings/Pages/ISEE.aspx.

Department for Energy Development and Independence Coal Education Awards

Green Ribbon Schools Tour

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, KEEC coordinated a tour of central Kentucky schools that have been named U.S. Green Ribbon Schools. National, state and local officials toured Northern Elementary and Georgetown Middle in Scott County and Rosa Parks Elementary, Wellington Elementary and Locust Trace AgriScience Farm in Fayette County. Green Ribbon schools are recognized for reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of schools, students and staff; and providing environmental education among many disciplines.

Earth Day

KEEC partnered with the Energy and Environment Cabinet and the First Lady's office to coordinate the 2015 Earth Day celebration at the Kentucky History Center. The First Lady recognized several Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools awardees. She also recognized the three 2015 Kentucky nominees for the U.S. Green Ribbon Schools award: Bryan Station Middle (Fayette County), Royal Springs Middle (Scott County), and along with the Council of Postsecondary Education President Bob King, recognized the first Kentucky post-secondary nominee, Western Kentucky University.

Capitol Education Center

The KEEC continues to play a leadership role in development of the Capitol Education Center (CEC), a special project initiated by Kentucky's First Lady, Jane Beshear. The CEC Grand Opening occurred in February 2013. Hands-on exhibits, touch screen kiosks, and demonstration technologies featured at the CEC cover topics such as sustainability, civic engagement, history, geography, and tourism in Kentucky. For her work on the Capitol Education Center, among other initiatives, KEEC Executive Director Elizabeth Schmitz received the 2015 Earth Day Recognition Award from the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission.



FY 2015 Public Education on Coal Related Issues

Kentucky Revised Statute 132.020(5) authorizes funding to the Energy and Environment Cabinet from the unmined minerals tax collected each year for the purpose of public education of coal related issues. DEDI has the responsibility to solicit proposals each year from non-profit agencies having the experience and expertise to successfully conduct programs or activities. Activities for the projects awarded in FY 2015 are highlighted below.

University of Kentucky, Center for Applied Energy Research

- Carbon Management Research Group, \$1,000,000: Continue development of utility flue gas CO₂ capture demonstration unit.
- Microalgae-based CO₂ capture and recycle, \$125,000
- Coal-fueled pressurized chemical looping combustion, \$125,000

University of Kentucky, Department of Mining Engineering

- Evaluation of Kentucky coal waste slurries for rare earth elements, \$75,000

University of Louisville

- Conversion of coal exhaust to renewable transportation fuel, \$50,000

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board Members

The 12-member board was established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1994. Five members are appointed from state government agencies, one each from the Department for Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Department of Parks, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and the Environmental Education Council. Seven members are private citizens selected by the governor from nominations by conservation groups, the Kentucky Academy of Science, agricultural interests and natural resources industries. Dr. Richard K. Kessler has been appointed by the governor to serve as chairman of the board. The citizen members do not receive pay for attending quarterly board meetings and serving on the active committees of the board. The committees review applications and visit project sites, review and monitor site stewardship, and provide advice and recommendations on issues coming before the board.

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board is staffed by the Department for Natural Resources. Comments regarding this report should be addressed to:

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

2 Hudson Hollow

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: 502-564-2320 Fax: 502-564-6079

[www.//heritageland.ky.gov](http://www.heritageland.ky.gov)

Alexander Barnett
Farm Bureau
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

Hugh Archer - KHLCF Stewardship Committee Chair
Land Acquisition Expert
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

W. Horace Brown
Ex Officio Member
Chair, Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Steve Hohmann
Ex Officio Member
Commissioner, Department for Natural Resources

Don Dott
Ex Officio Member
Director, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Greg Johnson
Ex Officio Member
Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Franklin D. Fitzpatrick - KHLCF Treasurer
Kentucky Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
Term Expires: July 15, 2017

Dr. Richard K. Kessler - KHLCF Board Chair
Kentucky Academy of Science
Term Expires: July 15, 2017

George "Bill" Little, Jr. - KHLCF Board Vice-Chair
Environmental Organizations Representative
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

Dr. Albert Meier - KHLCF Project Committee Chair
Kentucky Academy of Science
Term Expires: July 15, 2016

Dr. Paul M. Sheets
League of Kentucky Sportsmen
Term Expires: July 15, 2016

Elaine Walker
Ex Officio Member
Commissioner, Department of Parks

KHLCF Staff:

Zeb Weese - Environmental Biologist Consultant

Stephanie Ellis - Internal Policy Analyst II

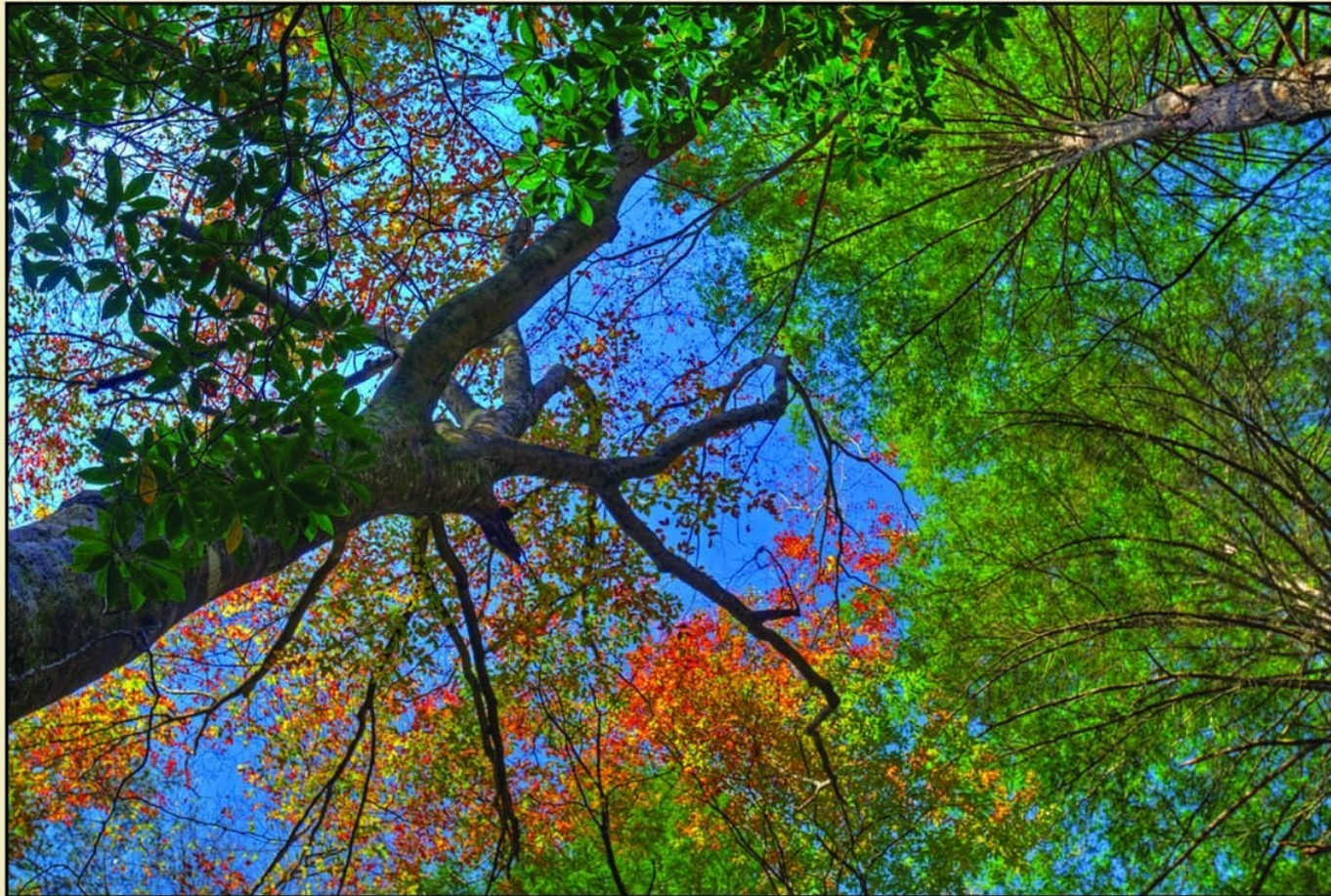
Erik Johnson- Property Management Program Analyst II

Kentucky, Naturally: the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work is a compilation and celebration of the properties that have been purchased with the assistance of KHLCF money during the first 20 years of the program. Award-winning Kentucky nature photographer Dr. Thomas G. Barnes displays hundreds of beautiful photographs of the state's protected lands and provides detailed descriptions of each site, including the natural flora and fauna. Through the KHLCF and public support, Kentucky's abundant natural resources and beauty can be treasured and protected for all to enjoy. Available now at your local bookstore and online.



KENTUCKY, *Naturally*

THE KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND AT WORK



THOMAS G. BARNES