



# 2024 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

*Serving People, Conserving Fish & Wildlife*

## SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **73,000 acres of new public access secured** by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and related recreation through acquisitions and cooperative agreements with public and private landowners across the state.
- **9,400 acres of public and private lands across the state enhanced with prescribed burning**, conducted to improve wildlife habitat and abate exotic-invasive species.



Habitat Improvement with prescribed burning



Deploying Fish Cover Structures

- **4.5 million fish stocked** in public waters to sustain and enhance fishing opportunities and to restore selected native species to Kentucky waterways.
- **4,000 natural Christmas trees** recycled to build and deploy fish cover structures in public waterways; evergreens were donated by Kentuckians at dropoff points statewide.

- **985 acres of land protected by the Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program** adjacent to restoration projects for wildlife habitat and other environmental benefits to Kentuckians.
- **42,000 visitors welcomed at the Salato Wildlife Education Center** including more than 11,000 with school groups. A new exhibit "Healthy Hunting Grounds" opened as a new interpretive space to highlight the positive benefits that hunting contributes to health and wellness, conservation, and society at large.



## NEW PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, EVENTS AND/OR OUTREACH

- **Enhanced Trophy Fish and Master Angler Awards program** to offer free printable certificates, patches and stickers to applicants who catch qualifying large fish in Kentucky waters.
- **Expanded the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods program to increase mass harvest of invasive carp** out of Kentucky's public waters by codifying it in administrative regulation and adding three commercial fishers in 2024.
- **Partnered with county governments to identify boating access sites in need of renovations in 2025** at Lake Linville, South Fork Licking River, and Green River; improvements will include extended ramps, new parking, and sediment retention jetties.







West Point Boat Ramp



Hinkston Creek Boat Ramp

## CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED - *Investing in local communities, improving public access*

- **West Point Boat Ramp (Hardin Co.)** - removed and replaced a deteriorated boat ramp on the Salt River near the Ohio River confluence, in the city of West Point, enhancing to two lanes and providing newly paved parking for thirty trucks and trailers.
- **Hinkston Creek Boat Ramp (Bourbon Co.)** - constructed new boating access with a concrete single lane ramp and gravel parking for fifteen trucks and trailers on Hinkston Creek in Millersburg.
- **Greenup County Courtesy Dock (Greenup Co.)** - contracted out the fabrication of a new aluminum three-boat courtesy dock, then installed the new dock on the Little Sandy River.
- **Taylorville WMA River Road Improvement (Anderson Co.)** - constructed three new concrete low water crossing on River Road, a high use section of the WMA.
- **Sloughs Duncan Unit Well (Henderson Co.)** - constructed a new well and pump to flood 40+ acres for improving waterfowl habitat on the Sloughs WMA.



Greenup Co. Courtesy Dock



Taylorville Lake WMA River Road

## STATE AND NATIONAL STAFF AWARDS - *Employees recognized for superlative work*

- **2024 Communications Office of the Year** - Kentucky Association of Government Communicators - Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information and Education Division
- **National Boating Educator of the Year** - National Association of Boating Law Administrators - Marcus Bowling, game warden
- **Elk Country National Biologist of the Year** - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - Dan Crank, wildlife biologist
- **Officer of the Year for Kentucky** - Mothers Against Drunk Driving - Zach Carney, game warden sergeant
- **Outstanding Video Production Awards** - Association for Conservation Information - Kentucky Afield TV



Information & Education Division



Marcus Bowling



Zach Carney



Dan Crank



Kentucky Afield TV

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