

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT
between
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
and
WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THIS RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT is dated July 1, 2025, and is between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (the "KDFWR") and the State of West Virginia, Department of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources (the "WVDNR"). The parties find and determine that it is in the best interests of the KDFWR and the WVDNR to enter into the following reciprocal agreement concerning hunting and fishing privileges on the Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers. The parties do hereby agree as follows:

1. Each state will recognize the valid sport fishing and hunting licenses and applicable stamp(s) and/or permits lawfully issued by the other state for individuals on the portion of the Big Sandy and the Tug Fork rivers from the confluence of the Big Sandy River with the Ohio River to the Virginia state line, excluding tributaries. As used in this Agreement, tributary boundaries shall be defined as a straight line between opposite points where the stream or embayment connects with the main body of the Big Sandy River or Tug Fork River.
2. A holder of a valid sport fishing license from either state may fish from either bank or by use of a watercraft in the described portions of the Big Sandy River and the Tug Fork River, except that Kentucky residents must hold the applicable Kentucky resident license(s) and West Virginia residents must hold the applicable West Virginia license(s).
3. A holder of a valid hunting license from either state may hunt from either bank or by use of a watercraft in the described portions of the Big Sandy River and the Tug Fork River, except that Kentucky residents must hold the applicable Kentucky resident license(s) and West Virginia residents must hold the applicable West Virginia license(s). Hunters are permitted to retrieve fallen game from either bank while engaged in lawful hunting activities pursuant to this agreement. Hunters are also permitted to anchor within the Big Sandy River and the Tug Fork River or to tie off along the bank, with landowner consent, while engaged in lawful hunting activities.
4. Each licensee shall abide by the laws, rules, regulations, seasons, and take or bag limits of the state by which they are licensed, except that when fishing or hunting from the bank, licensees shall follow the laws, rules, and regulations of the state in which they are fishing or hunting and must obtain landowner consent for such fishing or hunting activities.
5. Fish and wildlife law enforcement officials of either state, subject to the jurisdiction and authority granted by their state of oath, shall have the right to enforce the laws of their state as to any person fishing or hunting on the reciprocal waters of the Big Sandy and the Tug Fork Rivers.
6. The reciprocal agreement may be cancelled by either the Director of the WVDNR or by the Commissioner of the KDFWR upon thirty (30) days written notice.
7. No part of this agreement shall constitute, either directly or indirectly, a waiver of sovereign immunity of either state.



Rich Storm, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

04/07/2025

Date



Brett McMillion, Director
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

4/7/25

Date