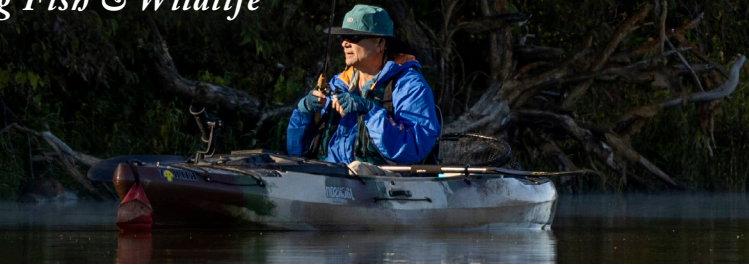




# 2025 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

*Serving People, Conserving Fish & Wildlife*



## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

- Administered 48 active federal grants totaling nearly \$90 million.
- Supported agency operations through procurement improvements, license system RFPs, and full inventory of newly acquired facilities.
- No findings for annual audit as mandated by KRS 150.152.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

- Secured \$826,228 in Department of Homeland Security Port Security Grant funding for patrol vessels, drones, and training.

Record-setting 2025 academy hiring cycle with 874 applicants and 30 recruits.



Statewide disaster response to Eastern Kentucky flooding and an EF-4 tornado in East Central Kentucky, including rescues and humanitarian aid saving countless lives.

Conducted 22,000 license compliance checks and 400 public outreach events, engaging sportsmen, women, and youth statewide.



## **ENGINEERING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION**

- Completed major flood-related repairs and upgrades to boat ramps, courtesy docks, access roads, culverts, and WMAs across the state.
- Improved waterfowl habitat by installing new pump systems affecting ~30 acres at Sloughs Duncan Unit at Sloughs WMA.
- Completed pollution cleanups including plugging abandoned oil wells and removing nearly 900 illegal dump tires.
- Acquired 1,579 acres of land for stream and wetland mitigation, including additions to Ross Creek WMA (Lee Co) and in Butler, Estill and Whitley Counties
- Launched an \$11 million stream and wetland restoration project at Rolling Fork WMA (Nelson & LaRue Co) restoring 13+ miles of stream and 100+ acres of wetlands.

Removed obsolete dam on Elkhorn Creek and assisted with removal of Green River Lock and Dam #6.



Reconstructed or replaced high-use boating access sites at Taylorsville Lake, South Fork Licking River, Kentucky Lake, Lake Linville, Lake Mauzy, Lake Beshear, and others.

Coordinate the construction of Veterans Shooting Range and Office with new 50- and 100-yard ranges.



## **INFORMATION, EDUCATION & MARKETING DIVISION**

- Launched regionalized social media accounts; agency-managed accounts now reach 950,000+ followers.
- Kentucky Afield TV surpassed 200,000 YouTube subscribers.
- Updated the agency's R3 Strategic Plan (finalized in early 2026).
- Created three new R3 positions in partnership with the University of Kentucky.
- Developed a Kentucky-specific Hunter Education booklet.

Two conservation camps earned American Camp Association accreditation.



KY Wild has 3,750 memberships with nearly \$1 million in membership dollars raised since the program's inception in 2018.



Certified 11,000+ hunters through Hunter Education.

## **WILDLIFE DIVISION**

- Burned 8,210 acres through prescribed fire statewide and continued the East Kentucky Habitat Initiative, including prescribed fire and aerial herbicide treatments on over 3,200 acres.
- Maintained 956 acres of dove fields across 103 sites.
- Record 95,743 elk hunt applications
- Strengthened private lands programs and obligated \$1.7 million in EQIP federal funds to improve wildlife habitat.

Advanced research on deer dispersal, elk habitat, turkey banding, and migratory geese tracking. Record number of 3,044 bands deployed on wood ducks.



Acquired 12,917 acres of land statewide for public access, Veterans Memorial, Obion Creek and University of the Cumberlands.

Expanded aerial herbicide use via helicopter and drone to control invasive species.



## **FISHERIES DIVISION**

- Completed major fish habitat projects at Lake Cumberland, Green River Lake, Kentucky Lake, and Lake Barkley.
- Facilitated the removal of approximately 7.5 million pounds of invasive carp; 80+ million pounds since 2013.

Cultured and stocked 4.5 million fish statewide from 2 KDFWR hatcheries and 650,000 trout from 1 federal hatchery.



Advanced the Thoroughbred Bass Program and completed black bass genetic surveys on 40 lakes.

Recycled 4,888 Christmas trees for fish habitat projects.

