**Economic Impact Data**
*Anglers, Hunters, Boaters, and other wildlife-related users*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Total Economic Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>554,000</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>347,000</td>
<td>$1.5 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Watching</td>
<td>1,319,000</td>
<td>$1.3 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>$1.94 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,420,000</td>
<td><strong>$5.94 Billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This overview of accomplishments, activities, and advances in wildlife-associated conservation and recreation represents just a portion of the work carried out by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. On many fronts, these activities are ongoing and designed to provide state residents with continuous opportunities to benefit from well-managed wildlife and fisheries resources within the Commonwealth.

The millions of residents and non-residents who engage in wildlife-associated recreation in the Bluegrass State, and who generate almost six billion dollars economic impact annually, exemplify the importance Kentuckians place on the kind of work the agency conducts. It is the mission of the KDFWR to maintain, improve and perpetuate the state’s game and nongame resources for the enjoyment of all its citizens today, tomorrow, and beyond.

**Strategic Planning Goals**

**Goal 1:** To conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

**Goal 2:** To increase opportunity for, and safe participation in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and other wildlife-related activities.

**Goal 3:** To foster a more informed and involved public.

**Goal 4:** To secure ample, dedicated, and long-term funding.

**Goal 5:** To create a more diverse, effective, and efficient organization.
For the third year running, the agency experienced a record volume of license and permit sales, totaling 1.03 Million units.

COMMISSIONER:
In May 2014, Gregory K. Johnson was appointed as Commissioner of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department. He immediately initiated advances in employee training, and took steps to re-focus the agency on improved service and attention to the needs of sportsmen and women throughout the Commonwealth.

ENGAGING CONSTITUENTS:
KDFWR exhibits in outdoor shows, ranging from regional boat shows in Louisville and Lexington to the Kentucky Deer and Turkey Expo to the Kentucky State Fair.

CONNECTING THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA:
The agency continues to grow social media impact, reaching 100,000 Facebook fans and building engagement at our Twitter accounts that provide timely information on programs from the Department, our Wildlife Education Center, and Fisheries Director, respectively. One Facebook post reached more than 1.6 million people. We enjoy over 12,000 Followers on Twitter. The Public Affairs Division received 2015 KAGC Award of Excellence in “Social Media” in 2015.

ELK SUCCESS:
Elk hunt applications totaled over 70,000. KDFWR was also honored in 2014 with the RMEF Conservationist of the Year award by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

EXECUTIVE STAFF:
Joining Commissioner Gregory Johnson as the agency Executive Staff are Deputy Commissioners Dr. Karen Waldrop and Charles Bush, with Division Director’s Steve Beam (Wildlife), Ron Brooks (Fisheries), Brian Blank (Marketing), Tim Slone (Information and Education), David Bruce (Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology), Rodney Coffey (Law Enforcement) and Billye Haslett (Administrative Services).
KENTUCKY AFIELD TELEVISION:
The agency’s Emmy award winning television show, Kentucky Afield continues to expand its popularity beyond the traditional air waves with nearly 25 million YouTube views. Chad Miles is the new host of the popular outdoors show and Nathan Brooks is its new Executive Producer. In all, the show’s staff has won 14 Emmy’s in the last 10 years.

SALATO WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER:
The Salato Wildlife Education Center is one of Frankfort’s top attractions with more than 55,000 visitors each year. Kentucky’s schools extensively use Salato for outdoor and science education.

HUNTER EDUCATION:
More than 15,000 people earn their hunter education certification cards each year in courses taught by the Hunter Education Program.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION:
KDFWR Conservation Educators present programs to 70,000 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students at 639 different schools each month.

BOW:
In 2015 and 2016, there was 384 participants that attended Becoming an Outdoors Woman (B.O.W.) events. This is a workshop designed primarily for women to build confidence in outdoor skills that include hunting and fishing. Events are held over a course of a weekend or a one-day event. Classes during these events range from Wild Game Cooking, Trapping Basics, Edible Wild Plants, and Advanced Fishing. Instructors are comprised of volunteers and KDWFR staff.

NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM (NASP):
The Kentucky Archery in the Schools program (the most successful in the nation) has more than 110,000 school children at 532 schools participating. The Kentucky State Championship Archery in the Schools Tournament recently set a new record with nearly 200 teams and more than 4,200 students competing.

CONSERVATION CAMPS:
Children attend the department’s 3 residential summer camps. A special Venture Camp week has been added for 7th & 8th grade students. Venture Camp delivers advanced programs for children that have previously attended camp and exceed the age limit to attend traditional camps. Also, a special camp is held for Girls Inc. that focuses on girls and young women from challenging backgrounds.

FACILITIES:
Construction of a new dining hall at Camp Currie has been identified as an agency priority. Funding has been earmarked for the project and a consultant has been hired to help select a design.
RAISING QUALITY FISH:

Department hatcheries produce over 7 million fish annually, including 18 species and hybrids, while crews log over 140,000 miles across the state stocking fish in an abundance of waterways.

RESOURCE IMPROVEMENTS

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) pose a direct threat to Kentucky’s waterways and as a result, threaten local tourism and water-related recreational activities. KDFWR is currently focusing on two invaders, Asian carp and the aquatic plant, hydrilla. On the Asian carp front, this Department continues to take a leadership role to compel states and the federal government to reach a level of effort and funding that will make the control of Asian carp in Kentucky and throughout the Mississippi River basin a reality. Recent efforts have led to KDFWR receiving over $280,000 in federal funds to fight aquatic nuisance species in Kentucky. Improved communication between commercial fishermen and Asian carp processors as well as boater education on the spread and damage caused by hydrilla are top priorities.

EASY ACCESS:

The Fishing-in-Neighborhoods (FINs) Program includes 42 lakes, which influence 31% of those fishing in those waters to purchase a fishing license and enjoy the fishing experience. The Department releases more than 140,000 rainbow trout, 100,000 channel and blue catfish and 64,000 hybrid sunfish in FINs lakes each year.

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES

The Department is always looking to create expanded fishing opportunities across the state. Whether it be new fishing locations or another species to fish for, these opportunities are key to recruiting new anglers and keeping the old. Recent additions and opportunities just around the corner include the completion of Hatchery Creek in Russell County, acquisition of the Boone Tract WMA in Henry County and its 4 associated lakes and ponds, saugeye stockings in several state-owned lakes as well as Taylorsville Lake, muskie stockings at Dewey Lake, acquisition of the Rockcastle River WMA and its 14 associated ponds and expansion of the FINs program by five lakes.

FISH RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Along with producing over 7 million fish, including 18 species and hybrids, hatchery production also aims to restore historically significant species and improve existing sportfish populations. Restoration efforts are currently underway for the lake sturgeon in the upper Cumberland River drainage and the alligator gar in the western region of the state. These threatened or critically imperiled species are currently being raised at the Peter Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery and the University of Kentucky’s Slice hatchery in the west. The alligator gar restoration effort is in its early stages, with plans to grow the population to a self-sustaining level. The lake sturgeon project is currently in the planning phase, and the partners have committed to a long-term restoration effort. In addition to restoring critical species, the Department is also attempting to improve trophy bass populations across the state through the Trophy Bass Propagation Program. This program, modeled after the Texas ShareLunker Program, utilizes angler donated trophy bass as broodstock in the statewide bass stocking program.

RESTORING LAKE HABITAT

KDFWR recently created a Fish Habitat Section with the primary purpose of conducting large-scale fish habitat projects on reservoirs across Kentucky. These projects aim to place large amounts of structure across multiple reservoirs along with partner and volunteer efforts. Along with these large-scale projects, each of the seven fishery districts also conduct smaller-scale projects at state-owned and managed lakes. These efforts will provide needed habitat for fish and also good fishing locations for anglers. Locations of all of the structure sites are provided to the public through the KDFWR website.
**GROUSE INITIATIVE:**

A draft Grouse and Young Forest Strategic Plan has been developed in concert with three public meetings in Eastern Kentucky to gain further public input. The final plan will help guide the agency’s forest management partnerships and habitat projects into the future.

**CONSERVATION:**

The agency is currently working on a partnership with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) for funding of a forest management project. This project is intended to benefit species needing early successional habitat including grouse, deer, elk, and other species of concern in eastern Kentucky.

**HUNTING EXPERIENCE:**

Kentucky’s free-ranging elk population is the nation’s largest east of the Rocky Mountains and elk hunters have some of the highest harvest success rates in the country.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT:**

The agency has initiated a 55-acre timber harvest on the Fleming WMA to set back forest stand succession and create early successional habitat to benefit grouse and other wildlife species. Also, the department is developing a plan for an 1,800-acre focus area in Eastern Kentucky for forest habitat management work in coordination with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and other partners complementing the Ruffed Grouse and Young Forest Strategic Initiative.

**ANIMAL HEALTH:**

The agency has tested over 20,000 deer and elk statewide for chronic wasting disease since 2010. Over 1,000 deer and elk were tested in 2015 and surveillance efforts are ongoing. The Department initiated statewide surveillance for amphibian diseases, including the emerging salamander chytrid fungus which is wiping out salamanders in Europe. The first-year sampling revealed the salamander chytrid fungus is not present in Kentucky.

**MIGRATORY BIRDS:**

The agency implemented a new online system for the Harvest Information Program (HIP) to collect data for ducks, geese, doves and other migratory birds. This new system provides more accurate information to assist with setting hunting seasons and providing more hunting opportunities in the future.

**MOLLUSK CONSERVATION:**

KDFWR’s Center for Mollusk Conservation was awarded $400,000 to support a regional effort to increase mussel populations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Along with partners Thomas More College, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, Ohio Division of Natural Resources and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, KDFWR can accomplish much to prevent extinction of federally-endangered species in multiple states.

**BARN OWL:**

The agency conducted a statewide barn owl nesting inventory and have documented more nests for the rare species in the Bluegrass State than in any previous survey.

**LAND ACQUISITION:**

The agency recently completed 8 land projects making 7,661 more acres available to sportmen and women for hunting, fishing and wildlife-related outdoor recreation.
HONORING THE FALLEN:
A memorial erected in 2014 by the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association on the KDFWR headquarters grounds honors conservation officers that gave their lives in the line of duty.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

TRAINING:
The Division now has an in-house training section for conservation officer in-service training, statute and regulation updates, and proficiency training.

PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE:
Conservation officers partner and assist with many fishing and hunting-related events for youth across the Commonwealth. Some of these include the Special Fishing Olympics in Campbell County, Dad’s Day Out at Carr Creek Lake in the Seventh District and the Anderson County Youth Turkey Hunt sponsored by the Anderson County Sportsman’s Club.

OFFICERS ASSIST WITH THE ANNUAL CATCH-A-RAINBOW FISHING DERBY AT WOLF CREEK NATIONAL HATCHERY THAT ATTRACTION 3,000 PEOPLE, CONDUCT MANY SCHOOL-RELATED AND SPORTSMEN’S CLUB PROGRAMS, THE BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN PROGRAM AND SUPPORT LOCAL TOURISM EFFORTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:
All Conservation Officers wear body cameras while on patrol.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

A “Boat Safe Kentucky” app is available for use by smart phone users. Among the safety information on the app is a safety equipment checklist, a float plan, and information showing the nearest marina to a user’s location.
Division

Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology

MISSION STATEMENT
To conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife related activities.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND LICENSING:
KDFWR EIT Division is responsible for infrastructure improvements/maintenance as well as ramp and fishing access projects across the state. EIT also develops and maintains all IT applications for the agency and maintains and supports a statewide licensing system and over 800 license agents.

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