



JACKSON PURCHASE COA

The Jackson Purchase Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) includes 1,572,039 acres in far western Kentucky. It spans all of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain and Mississippi Valley Loess Plains regions, as well as portions of the Interior Low Plateau and Interior River Valleys and Hills physiographic regions. This COA is bordered by the Ohio River to the north, Kentucky Lake to the east, Mississippi River to the west, and extends south to the Tennessee state line. It includes the entirety of Marshall, Calloway, Graves, McCracken, Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, and Fulton counties. Jackson Purchase COA is the northeastern part of the upper Mississippi Embayment, a part of the Gulf Coastal Plain and includes the lowest elevation in the Commonwealth. This part of Kentucky is relatively flat, with numerous lakes, ponds, sloughs, and swamps vital to many SGCN. There are some more hilly areas commonly referred to as the loess bluffs. The soils of this region are fertile, benefiting from the alluvial deposits. These fertile soils have led to widespread agriculture use in the COA. Much of the COA has been converted to agricultural use (55%) while development continues to increase around incorporated cities and along major transportation corridors (8%).

A major conservation focus for this region has been to restore native open land systems, manage bottomland hardwood forest, and maintain natural hydrologic regimes. A large part of the central (Graves County) Jackson Purchase COA was covered in barrens before European settlement. Although row crop and pasture/hay land is



Within Kentucky, the Broad-banded Watersnake is known only from the Mississippi Alluvial Plain within the Jackson Purchase COA. It often utilizes bottomland hardwood forests and cypress swamps both of which have been significantly altered for agricultural purposes. Photo: John MacGregor



Three Ponds State Nature Preserve, Hickman County. This and other natural sloughs within the Jackson Purchase COA provide important habitat for many aquatic and terrestrial SGCN. Photo: Matt Thomas

Jackson Purchase SGCN Priority by Taxa

Taxa	Moderate Priority	High Priority	Highest Priority	Data Deficient	Plant	Grand Total
Amphibians	2	3	1	5		11
Birds	84	14	1	1		100
Crustaceans			1	8		9
Fishes	21	20	4	8		53
Freshwater Mussels and Snails	1	28	2	8		39
Insects	5	7				12
Mammals	5	5		9		19
Plants					6	6
Reptiles	1	4		16		21
Grand Total	119	81	9	55	6	270

the majority of the landcover in the COA (42% and 12% respectively), this COA still supports a large amount of woody and emergent wetlands (almost 150,000 acres). Priorities in the COA include working lands solutions such as no-till farming, native buffers, and limiting subsurface drainage tile.

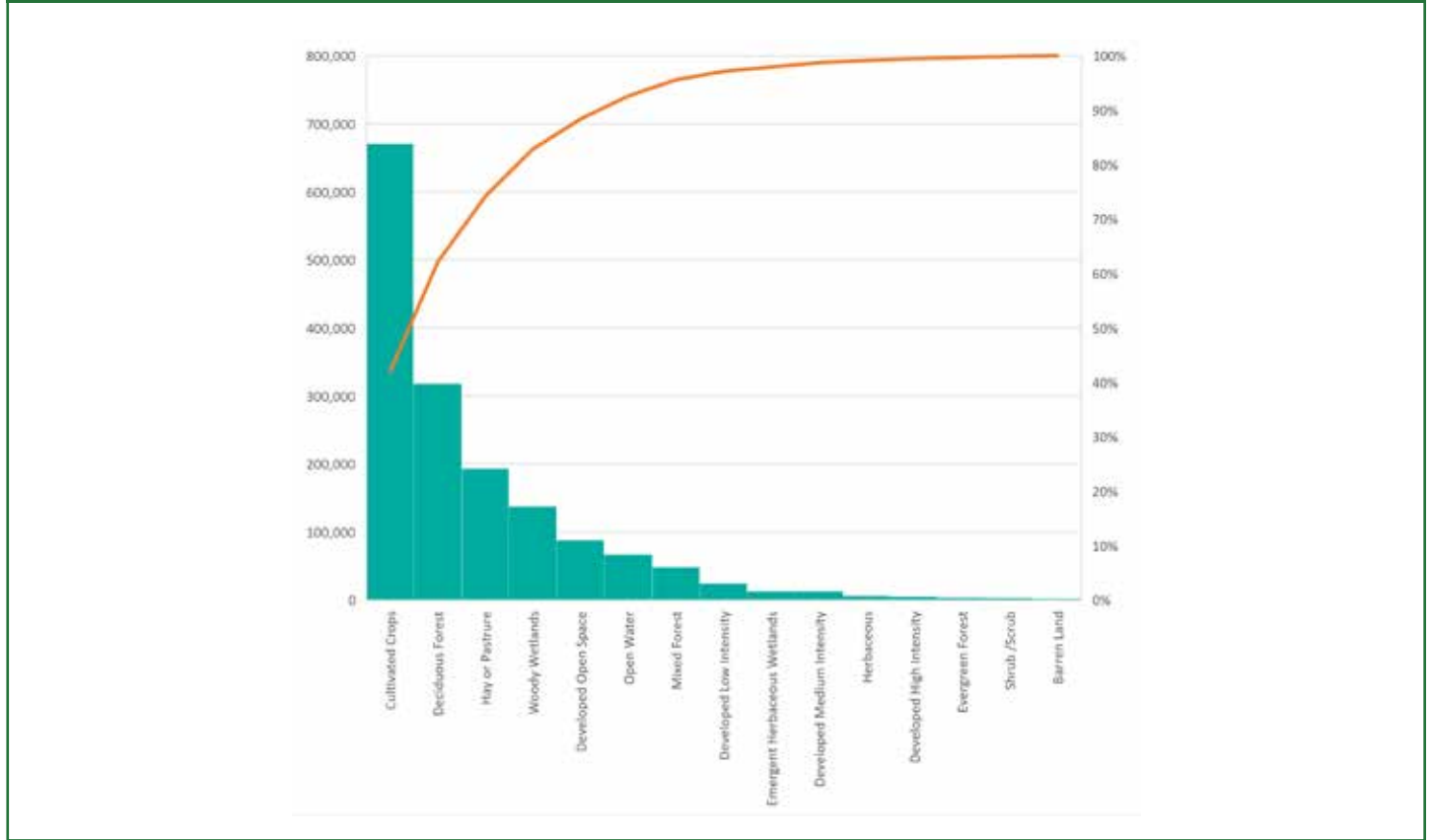
Restoration of native bottomland systems benefits a variety of wildlife species including birds, fishes, and aquatic invertebrates. Western Kentucky bottomland and upland systems harbor some unique natural plant communities, including natural sloughs, swamps, prairies, and barrens. Jackson Purchase COA contains 270 SGCN, including 9 among the highest prioritization category. The majority of these SGCN are bird species. Top threats identified within this COA are Natural system modification, Pollution, and Agriculture/Aquaculture.

Collaborative partnerships to reduce or eliminate threats to native upland and bottomland systems are of highest priority in this COA, primarily through public outreach and continued working land projects. External capacity building will be essential to implement these and related projects. Current and potential partners include USDA-Farm Services Agency, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kentucky Division of Conservation, Kentucky Division of Transportation, Kentucky Division of Water, Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, The Nature Conservancy, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Murray State University.

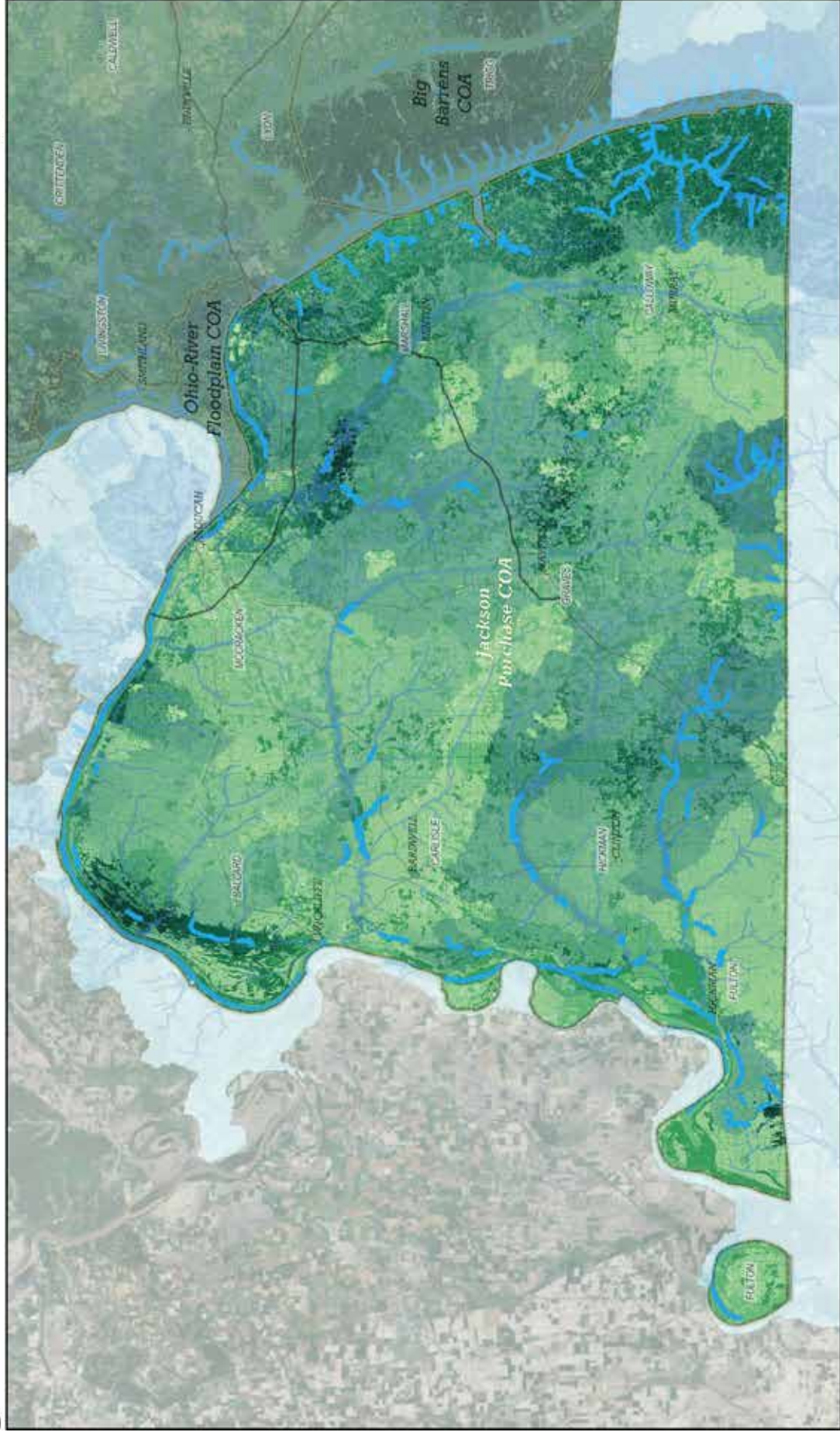


Blacktail Redhorse are among a few SGCN with Kentucky distributions restricted to Terrapin Creek. Long term monitoring of population trends and watershed conditions are an ongoing priority. Photo: KDFWR

Jackson Purchase Land Use by Acres



Jackson Purchase COA



Map prepared by GIS staff at KDFWR in partnership with OKNP and TNC. Service Layers courtesy of: Sources Est., USDA FSA, Sources Est., Mass., Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community. DCL by Fromknecht Partners, Inc. HERE, Garmin, Mapbox, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS.