



MULDRAUGH PRAIRIES COA

The Muldraugh Prairies Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) includes 1,261,922.56 acres in central Kentucky and is bordered by the Ohio River to the North and the Green River COA to the south. The Muldraugh Prairies COA occurs primarily in the Interior Plateau and Knobs physiographic regions, but also contains portions of the Bluegrass and Interior River Valley and Hills regions. The landscape consists of open rolling karst plain with numerous sinkholes, caves and underground streams in the Interior Plateau and Bluegrass regions, as well as isolated and forested cone-shaped hills and ridge systems in the Knobs. Sandstone bluffs and more rugged forests occur in parts of the Interior River Valley and Hills. The boundary was delineated by reviewing locations of SGCN plants and animals, natural grassland/open wetland remnants and rare grassland/open wetland species occurrences in the OKNP natural heritage database. Although watersheds were not used to delineate this COA, it does include Several important watersheds in the COA include the Blue-Sinking, Rolling Fork, Rough, Salt, and the upper Green River watersheds.

Kentucky once contained millions of acres of prairies and barrens prior to European settlement. A large portion of these grasslands were located in the Muldraugh Prairies COA. Today, only a few remnants remain as a result of development and conversion to agricultural uses. The forests around Bernheim Forest and Fort Knox military reservation contain the largest forest blocks in the state outside of the South Fork COA. Barrens/grasslands have



The majority of SGCN occurring within Muldraugh COA are open grassland and wetland associated birds, including the high priority SGCN Loggerhead shrike. Photo: KDFWR



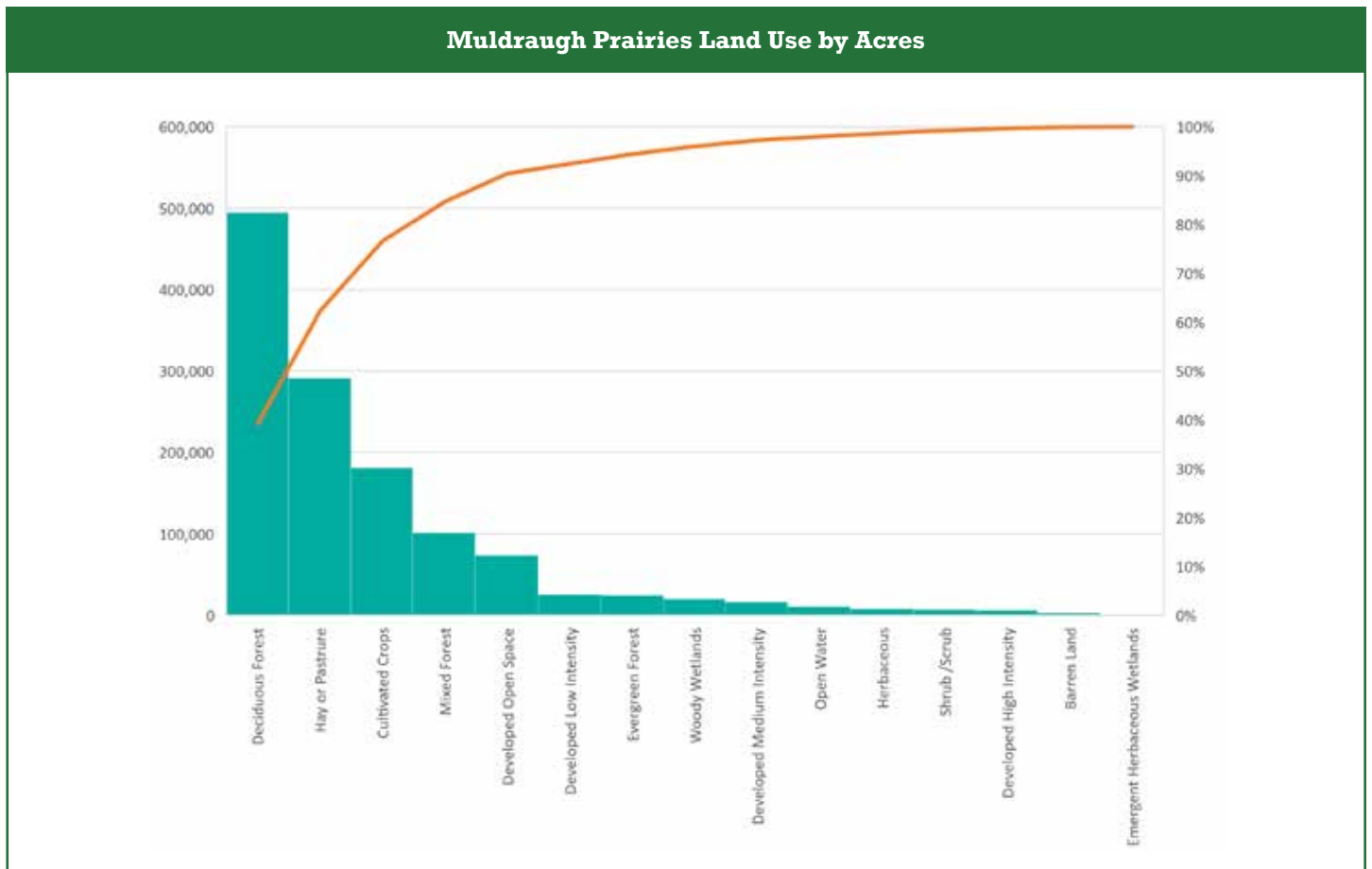
The northern cavefish is one of the SGCN that utilizes the numerous sinkholes, caves, and underground streams within Muldraugh Prairies COA. Photo: Dante Fenolio

Muldraugh Prairies SGCN Priority by Taxa						
Taxa	Moderate	High	Highest	Data Deficient	Plant	Grand Total
Amphibians	2	1	1	2		6
Birds	65	11	1			77
Crustaceans		4	1	9		14
Fishes	4	2	3	6		15
Freshwater Mussels and Snails	3	18	4	7		32
Insects	1	7	4			12
Mammals	4	8		12		24
Plants					10	10
Reptiles	1			8		9
Grand Total	80	51	14	44	10	199

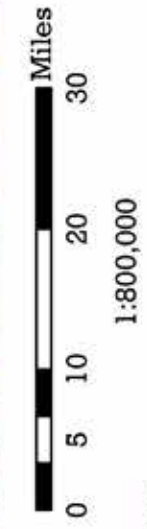
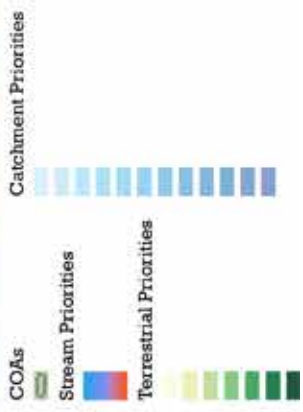
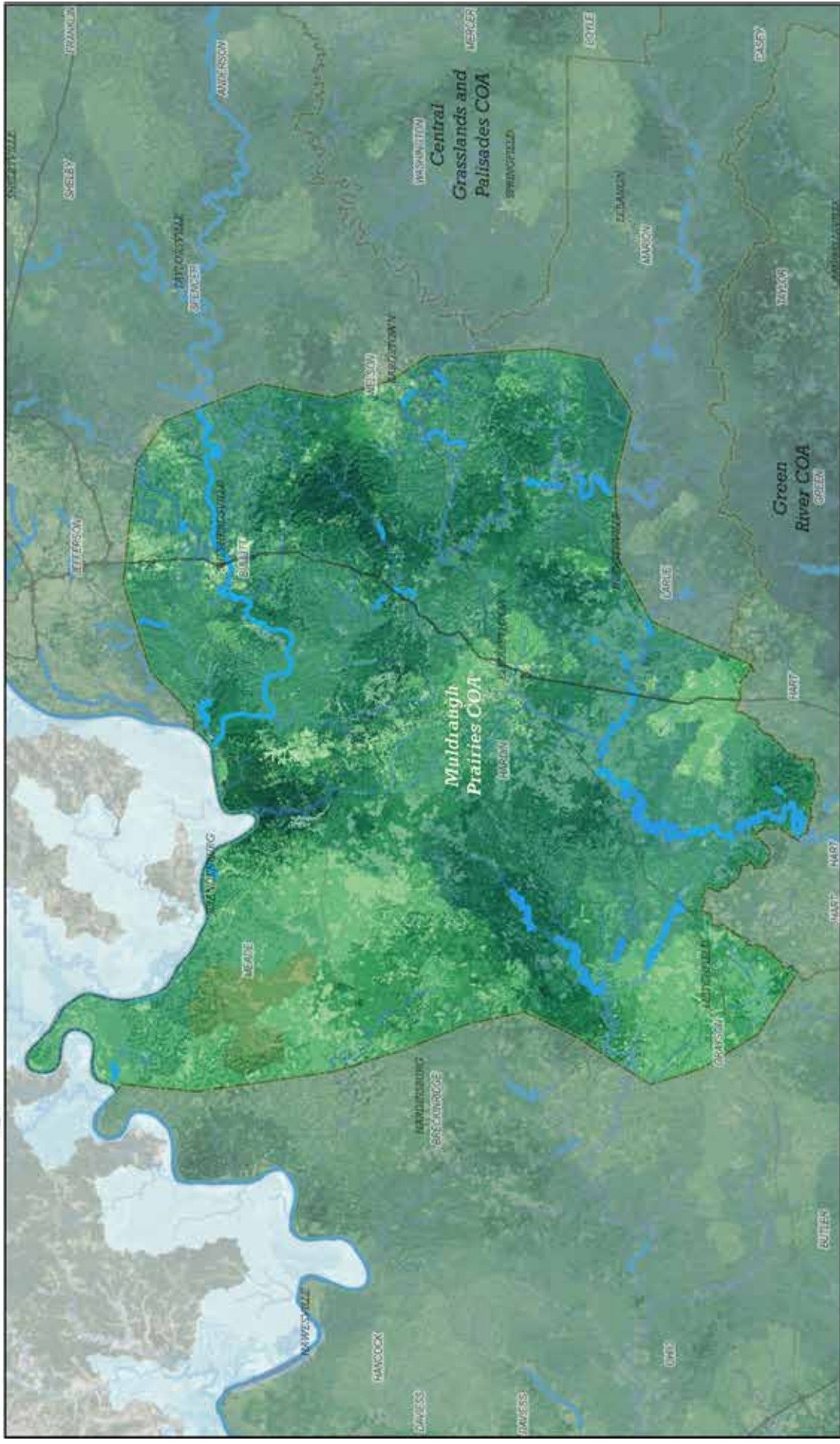
also been lost to vegetative succession. One of the largest documented glades, barrens and prairie complexes occurs in this COA within Fort Knox Military Reservation and surrounding private lands. Top threats identified within this COA include Natural System Modification, Pollution, Development, Agriculture/Aquaculture.

Muldraugh Prairies COA has records for 199 SGCN, including 14 among the highest prioritization category for animals and 10 SGCN plants. The majority of terrestrial SGCN occurring within this area are grassland and wetland associated birds, insects, and plants. Grassland and subterranean systems in this COA provide habitat for several high priority SGCN insects.

The majority of this COA is in private ownership. Land owned by state, federal and other conservation organizations includes the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (OKNP), United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), private conservation lands (Bernheim Forest), The Nature Conservancy, local conservation districts and fiscal courts, National Park Service (NPS), KDFWR, KDF, Kentucky State Parks and sites funded by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF). There is opportunity to increase private land conservation through programs administered by KDFWR and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), OKNP and USFWS. Priority conservation actions include Land/Water Protection, Land/Water Management, External Capacity Building, and Education and Awareness.



Muldraugh Prairies COA



Maps prepared by GIS staff at KDFWR in partnership with OKNP and TNC. Services Layers courtesy of Sources, Esri, USDA, PSA, Sources, Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, DCL, MyromAbroad, Farmers, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS.