

Kentucky Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Kentucky's wildlife action plan identifies priority conservation actions for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and the places they live. Important strategies include protecting habitat through acquisition, easements, or economic incentives with private landowners, and partnerships with other state and federal agencies and conservation organizations.

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Learning More About Black Bears in Kentucky

Black bears are high priority wildlife in Kentucky's wildlife action plan. A cooperative project between the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and University of Kentucky aims to determine the size and distribution

of Kentucky's black bear population. This project will provide the first formal population estimate for black bears in the Commonwealth and illuminate recolonization patterns from the past 20 years. This research will be invaluable to current and future management efforts as bears continue to expand throughout once unoccupied habitat. This proactive effort will conserve bears for future generations and best manage their potential interactions with people.

Kentucky's proactive research efforts will conserve bears for future generations and best manage their potential interactions with people.



Black bear/Steven Dobby



Pink mucket mussels/Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Restoring Endangered Pink Mucket Mussels**

Conservation of the endangered pink mucket mussel is a priority in Kentucky's wildlife action plan. Pink mucket populations have declined throughout their range since being listed as endangered in 1976. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources reared pink mucket mussels at the Center for Mollusk Conservation and released 1,100 pink muckets in Green River in July 2007. This was the first effort to recover pink muckets in the state. The work also developed the best methods and techniques to recover mussel populations. Restoration efforts will continue for the next several years to augment existing populations of pink muckets and other endangered mussels. Maintaining healthy populations of mussels means cleaner waters that benefit both wildlife and people.

Gathering Information to Take Action **Improving Kentucky Wildlife and Heritage Information**

Kentucky's wildlife action plan prioritizes obtaining and organizing good information since good decisions that benefit both wildlife and people cannot be made without it. State Wildlife Grant funds continue to help Kentucky obtain and organize

important wildlife information by combining the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information System with the Kentucky Heritage Database. Data sharing helps biologists refine locations of key wildlife and habitat areas, leading to more proactive and cost effective management practices. This continued collaboration helps improve the quality and availability of information for the many partners working together to conserve wildlife for future generations.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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Cape May Warbler/John Brunjes, KDFWR