



... *Serving People, Conserving Fish and Wildlife* ...



Department Report: Interim Joint Committee on State Government





What Kentuckians Ought to Know

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WHAT KENTUCKIANS OUGHT TO KNOW

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THE GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT IS WORKING FOR YOU

Derives its support from hunters' licenses only—does not get one cent from taxation.

The man who hunts pays the bill and it only costs him \$1.00 per year.

If you want your boy to enjoy the delights of field and stream—the whir of the partridge—the singing of the reel—as you are doing and have done in the past, put your shoulder to the wheel and boost for the Game and Fish Commission and the good work it is doing.

Help us swat the violators of our game laws, the fellows who are not playing fair the game of sportsmanship.

Endeavor to live by the noble principles set forth as follows:

THE SPORTSMAN'S CREED

I believe that a sportsman should—

1. Never in sport endanger human life.
2. Never kill wantonly or needlessly or brutally.
3. Obey the laws of the state and nation, work for better laws and uphold the law enforcing authorities.
4. Respect the rights of farmers and property owners and also their feelings.
5. Always leave seed birds and game in covers.
6. Never be a fish hog.
7. Discourage the killing of game for commercial purposes by refusing to purchase trophies.
8. Study and record the natural history of game species in the interests of science.
9. Love nature and its denizens and be a gentleman.



Law Enforcement

KY Game Wardens enforce all laws of the Commonwealth, but have a mission focus on boating, fishing, and hunting law enforcement.



Nolin Lake Raft Up 2023



Kentucky Game Warden Recruitment and Hiring

Sworn Personnel: 98

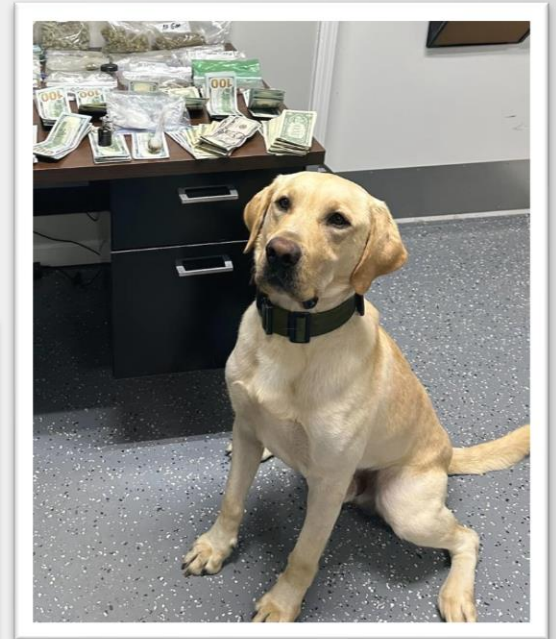
Academy Class #28: 15 Recruits





Kentucky Game Warden K-9 Program

- River, Gambit, and Cosmo
- Littermate sibling Labrador Retrievers
- Strategically placed across the Commonwealth
- Trained in human trailing, article detection, and narcotics detection
- Mission: protect and serve!





Information and Education Division

Investing in Our Conservation Camps


- New dining hall planned for Camp Earl Wallace
- KDFWR pursuing accreditation from the American Camp Association
- Increased pay for camp counselors and camp counselor supervisors. Applications accepted for summer staff in early 2025 (fw.ky.gov/careers)
- Overnight security provided by sworn law enforcement officers for 2025 season






Loaner Pole Locations

- 50 locations statewide
- 22 state parks
- 22 libraries
- 6 extension offices
- Interactive statewide map available on “Learn to Fish” webpage at fw.ky.gov



Participating Loaner Pole Location

BORROW and **RETURN**
fishing poles here!



Learn to Fish!

Any person 16 years of age or older must have a license to fish Kentucky waters.



New Salato Exhibit

Healthy Hunting Grounds

Opened October 2024
Supported by the Kentucky Fish and
Wildlife Foundation

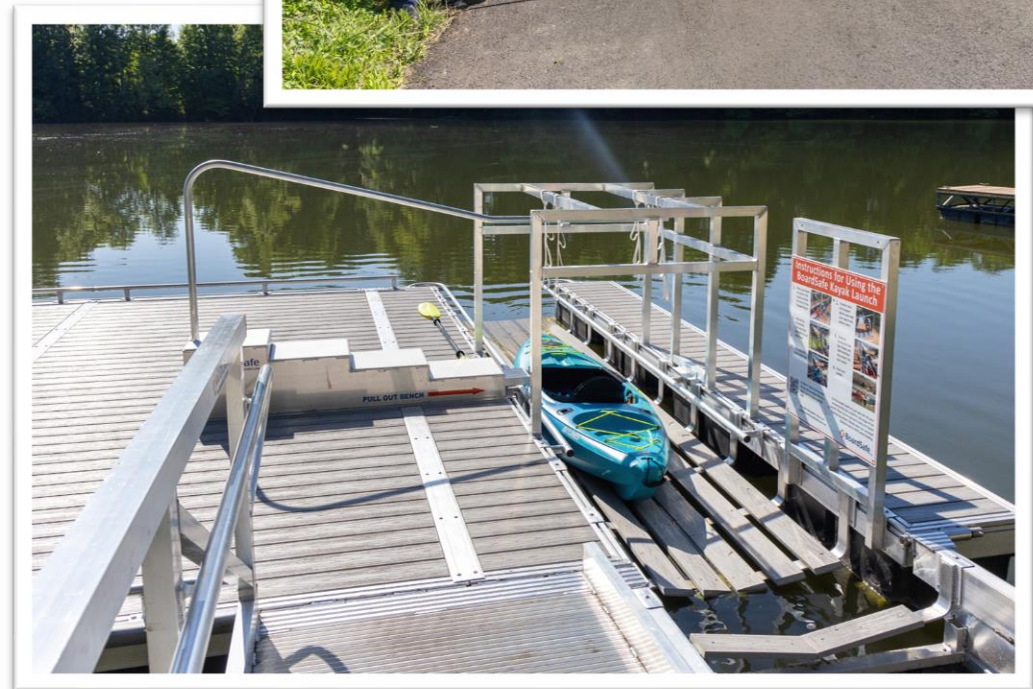




Engineering and IT

2023 Completed Ramp and Boating Access Projects:

1. Harris Dickerson WMA Pond River Ramp- Hopkins county on Harris-Dickerson WMA
2. Beaver Lake Ramp- Added new ramp adjacent to existing in Anderson County
3. Wilgreen Lake Ramp and ADA Kayak Launch- constructed new ramp, expanded and improved parking lot from gravel to asphalt, relocated and resurfaced boat slips, and added an aluminum courtesy dock and kayak launch





Engineering and IT

2024 Completed Ramp and Boating Access Projects:

1. Greenup County Courtesy Dock- Located on the Little Sandy River near confluence with the Ohio River
2. West Point Boat Ramp-located on the Salt River within Hardin County
3. Hinkston Creek Ramp- Millersburg in Bourbon County

2025 Scheduled:

1. South Fork Licking River Ramp Rebuild- Cynthiana, Harrison County
2. Green River Lock & Dam 5- ramp extension required due to lower pool level after dam removal in Edmonson County
3. Lake Linville- ramp rebuild in Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County





Administrative Services

- Routine Financial Audits
 - Annual Receipt Audit (KRS 150.152 & 150.0242)
 - Includes review of internal controls
 - Procurement (KRS Chapter 45A)
 - Federal Audit every 5 years (USFWS)
 - Desk Audits – USCG, PSGP, etc.
- All completed department audit reports with the Auditor of Public Accounts can be found at the following link: [Online Audit Search - Auditor of Public Accounts \(ky.gov\)](#)
- All audits conducted over the past year have resulted in clean audits with no outstanding findings, demonstrating our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, transparency, and accountability in our financial practices.





Marketing Division

Meet us at upcoming shows:

Jan 30-Feb 2, 2025	Kentucky Sport, Boat & Recreation Show	Lexington, KY
Jan 30-Feb 2, 2025	West KY Boat & Outdoor Show	Murray, KY
Feb 13-16, 2025	National Wild Turkey Federation Convention	Nashville, TN
Feb 21-22, 2025	Catfish & Crappie Conference	Louisville, KY
Feb 21-23, 2025	Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo	Indianapolis, IN
March 14-15, 2025	NASP –State Tournament	Louisville, KY
May 10, 2025	KY Elk Fest	Bardstown, KY
Aug 2-3, 2025	Hummingbird Festival	Cadiz, KY - LBL
Aug 14-24, 2025	KY State Fair 2025	Louisville, KY





Fisheries

- Created New FishBoatKY App
- Increased invasive carp harvest to 12 M lbs./yr by expanding Experimental Gears Program.
- Stocked 4.5 M fish statewide from the two department hatcheries.
- Increased and distributed habitat capabilities, staff, and equipment to east, central, and west locations to increase habitat projects statewide.
- Initiated a new large-scale fish habitat project at Lake Cumberland in partnership with the USACE in Fall 2024





Waylon

Youth Angler

Trophy Fish Program
Participant caught a big bass in
one of our sportsman's lakes on
HQ property.





Wildlife

- In 2024 KDFWR managed **120 dove fields** totaling over 1,100 acres open for public hunting.
- 204 Bald Eagle nests were recorded in Kentucky during 2024, **more than ever before.**
- Since January, KDFWR used prescribed fire on over **9,588 acres** to improve wildlife habitat.
- Our on-going East KY Habitat Initiative resulted in **3,267 acres** of prescribed fire and **2,461 acres** of aerial spraying to control invasive plant species which benefit elk and other animals in the region





Wildlife

Cumberland Forest Wildlife Management Area

- **54,000 acres** located in Bell, Knox, and Leslie Counties.
- Represents a new type of agreement and is a **Win-Win for county and local governments** and the sportsmen of KY.
- This is a perpetual public access and management easement that will **increase local tourism** while **keeping the property in the tax base.**
- Model for future growth to test in other areas.

