

## Kentucky State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Kentucky's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



*Black Bear, Photo Courtesy of Kentucky DFWR*

### **Research: Gathering Information to Take Action** **American Black Bear Monitoring**

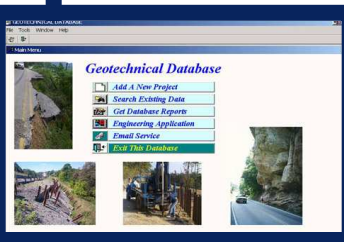
After years of low numbers, the American black bear is making a comeback in many parts of eastern Kentucky. As black bear numbers have increased, so has public interest. The objective of this State Wildlife Grant funded project is to determine re-colonization patterns and population dynamics of the black bear. This information will provide baseline data that will help develop management programs to minimize the potential for conflict between bears and humans. This is a proactive way to continue to conserve the black bear for future generations and to best manage their interaction with people.



*Canoeing, Photo Courtesy of Kentucky DFWR*

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife** **The Ballard Management Area**

The Ballard Management Area protects important habitat for a variety of wildlife including river otters, bald eagles, and golden eagles. It also provides people with a place to relax and recreate. State Wildlife Grant funds were combined with Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation funds to acquire four key tracts of land, totaling 962 acres, to be incorporated into the Ballard Wildlife Management Area. Good management of this area will lead to conservation of wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations and provide a place to carry on important outdoor family traditions.



*Database, Photo Courtesy of USGS*

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People** **Creating Good Information Systems**

Good information leads to proactive and cost effective decisions that benefit both wildlife and people. State Wildlife Grant funds are helping Kentucky obtain and organize this information by combining two existing databases on wildlife. By joining the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information System with the Kentucky Heritage Database, biologists and decision makers will have a better base of knowledge for planning and implementing wildlife management practices. This project has created a partnership between the two agencies that maintain these databases and will hopefully lead to more collaboration in the future.

**Congress has appropriated \$5 million in State Wildlife Grants to Kentucky since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$2 million state and partner dollars.**