



CASE STUDY

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Private Lands Working Group

Agriculture Conservation Committee



STATE AGENCY PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM CASE-STUDY

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) private lands program was initiated in 1987 with a modest cost share program then staffed in 1991 with the first biologists. About 95% of the land in Kentucky is privately owned. To successfully manage their wildlife resources, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources works cooperatively with Kentucky's private landowners.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF KENTUCKY'S PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM

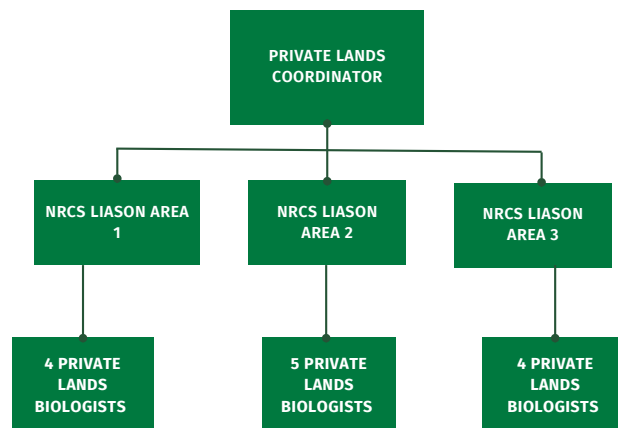
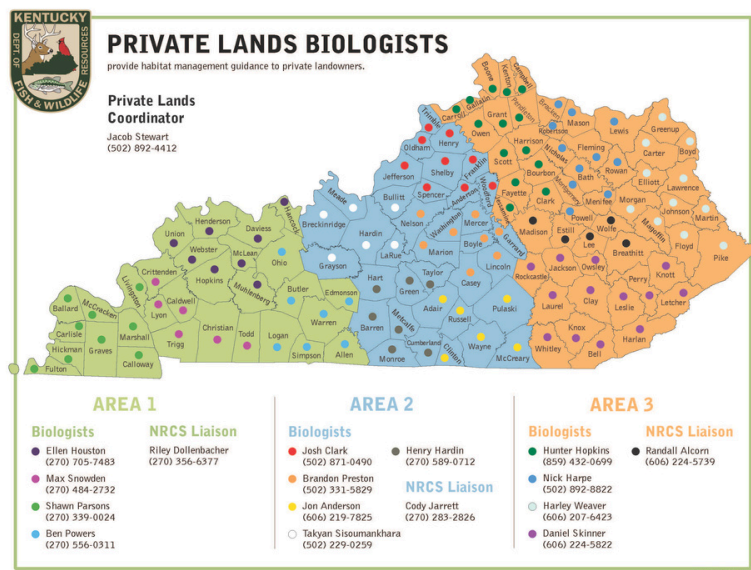


Figure. Private Lands Program Organizational Chart

STATE AGENCY PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM CASE-STUDY: KENTUCKY

PRIMARY PROGRAM, SPECIFIC TO STATE AGENCY, USED TO DELIVER PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION:

KDFWR does have some specific program money, though the majority of the program is run through USDA Programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

This is accomplished through Quail Forever/Pheasants Forever (currently 6 personnel), National Wild Turkey Federation (currently 1 person), Ruffed Grouse Society (currently 2 personnel), Kentucky Division of Forestry, and Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (private land easements ~ 170,000 ac).

PRIMARY PARTNERS

- Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA



EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

- Recent college graduates



PRIMARY PROGRAMS

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



PRIMARY FUNDING

- Pittman-Robertson funds
- USDA Farm Bill funds



PRIMARY MARKETING AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES YOUR AGENCY USES TO ENGAGE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Direct mailing in focal areas, public events such as state fair, sportspeople groups, field days, etc.. Promotions on social media and agency website.

KENTUCKY PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION EFFORTS: WHAT WORKS?

The most effective landscape projects have one or a combination of the following:

1. Cost-share that is provided makes financial sense.
2. Management practice fits into the overall goals of a local management strategy.
3. Agency or partner provides landowner support to see the management through.

The best way to ensure you are addressing one or more of these points is to have a biologist or partner that is familiar with the landscape (landowners, typical land management, rental rates, etc..), the type of management needed to address wildlife goals, and the ability to effectively do outreach.

KENTUCKY PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION EFFORTS: CHALLENGES?

- Turnover, as of June 2024 the average biologist is staying 11 months.
- Lack of knowledge of wildlife management practices
- Lack of flexibility in cost-share opportunities

Supporting Information

Assisting Private Landowners with Wildlife Management: fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Improve-Your-Land-for-Wildlife.aspx

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
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