



Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

2023



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), has prepared this national heritage area (NHA) feasibility study to determine if the Kentucky Wildlands study area identified in legislation meets criteria of designation eligibility as a national heritage area. This study meets the requirements of the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019) and complies with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the National Heritage Area Act of 2023.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In December 2019, Congress passed the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-94), including the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act (Title XVIII). The legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating a region in Eastern Kentucky as the “Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area.”

On January 5, 2023, Congress passed Public Law 117-339, the National Heritage Area Act, which officially established a national heritage area system and provides a process for the study and designation of new national heritage areas (NHAs). This study began before the passage of the National Heritage Area Act and references criteria as defined in the 2019 NHA guidelines. (See table 2 for side-by-side comparisons of the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act, the 2019 *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, and the National Heritage Area Act of 2023.)

STUDY AREA

The study legislation does not define the geographic area referred to as the “Kentucky Wildlands,” other than providing the names of 41 counties in the eastern portion of the state. Therefore, the NHA feasibility study team held the responsibility of defining and characterizing the geographic area through the study process, including applying NHA feasibility criteria and gathering public input. Section 1802.4 defines the NHA feasibility study area as follows:

(A) Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe Counties in the State; and

(B) any other areas in the state that—

(i) have heritage aspects that are similar to the heritage aspects described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, the areas described in that subparagraph.

In addition to the 41 counties named in the study legislation, the National Park Service evaluated three additional adjacent counties during the feasibility study: Estill, Madison, and Powell. The study analyzes the counties against the criteria in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019), as well as specified provisions in the study legislation. A copy of the law authorizing the study is in appendix A.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The National Park Service solicited public feedback related to the NHA feasibility study area, resources, and criteria through the project’s NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website and virtual public meetings. National Park Service staff posted an informational newsletter on the PEPC site in September 2021 and distributed it to Kentucky state agencies, federally recognized Tribes, preservation partners, and related nonprofit organizations to encourage interested individuals to submit comments. A total of 56 people attended the three virtual public informational meetings held in March 2022. During the 90-day public comment period (March–June 2022), the study team received 499 individual correspondences, as well as official resolutions demonstrating support for the study and national heritage area from 32 cities and 37 counties named in or adjacent to counties named in the study legislation.

In response to public comments received during this period, the study team facilitated three consultation webinars with 16 local subject matter experts who are familiar with the history, contemporary life, and resources of Eastern Kentucky. These conversations helped focus potential themes and better define the conceptual boundary outlined in the study legislation and mentioned in comments received from the public. In April 2023, NPS study team members visited the legislated study area to gather additional information about potential management entities, the region’s physical geography, historic sites, and recreational assets.

STUDY FINDINGS

The feasibility study team used the study legislation and the 10 evaluation criteria for potential NHA designation, as outlined in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019), to evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of creating a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area (table 1).

The study team identified several themes of national significance related to the study area represented by natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources found throughout Eastern Kentucky, therefore meeting NHA criterion 1. The strong regional identity, cultural heritage,

and related folkways associated with Appalachian and Eastern Kentucky were shaped by the Cumberland Plateau's distinctive landscape and, therefore, meet NHA criterion 2.

The study area's potential for future conservation, educational, and recreational opportunities meet NHA criteria 3 and 4. The resources described in chapter 3 support the themes associated with Eastern Kentucky and retain a level of integrity supporting interpretation and, therefore, meet criterion 5.

The study team finds that NHA criteria 6, 7, and 8 are met through the efforts of local heritage tourism and economic development groups. Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. (PRIDE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to contribute to economic and cultural growth of southern and Eastern Kentucky by improving water quality, cleaning up solid waste problems, and advancing environmental education, in order to improve living conditions for its residents while enhancing the potential for tourism industry growth in the region. Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. established the Kentucky Wildlands regional tourism initiative in 2020 in support of its mission and has been successful in managing federal funding, demonstrating its organizational capacity to manage a potential national heritage area.

Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc.'s current status and proposed coordinating entity financial structure appear to be reasonable and meet criterion 6. Community support for PRIDE is representative of their years of successfully collaborating with partners across Eastern Kentucky promoting tourism and economic growth in the Kentucky Wildlands region. Throughout the study process, support was demonstrated for the designation of a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, as well as for PRIDE to serve as the local coordinating entity for the national heritage area.

Based on the successful work of PRIDE, their willingness to work with existing and future partners, their ability to raise funds from diverse nonfederal sources, and their level of engagement in the feasibility study, the study team concludes that NHA criterion 7 of the *NPS National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* is met.

The designation of the Kentucky Wildlands as a national heritage area would continue to promote tourism and provide economic benefits to the local communities; these contributions would be consistent with ongoing economic activities in the study area focused on increasing tourism, improving living conditions, advancing environmental education, and creating recreational opportunities; therefore, support is demonstrated for NHA criterion 8.

National heritage area criterion 9 requires a conceptual boundary map supported by the public. Although the legislation named 41 counties to be studied, the study concludes that 35 counties encompass a reasonable boundary as a potential national heritage area. The National Park Service determined that the assemblage of counties directly supporting the themes for a potential national heritage area boundary includes the following 35 counties: Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe (figure 1). The 9 counties originally part of the study that are not included in the national heritage area boundary are Monroe, Metcalfe, Green, Adair, Cumberland, Clinton,

Russell, Casey, and Lincoln Counties. The study determined that the most appropriate boundary is one with the counties that include the Daniel Boone National Forest as the western boundary and all the counties located to the east in the commonwealth of Kentucky. The conceptual boundary aligns with the geography of counties serviced by PRIDE, the proposed coordinating entity. Within these counties, natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources that support the overall landscape, cultural tradition of the area, and the nationally important heritage of Kentucky Wildlands are evident in each county. The counties share similar resources, geological landscape, and culture.

Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. is the proposed coordinating entity for a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, should one be named in future NHA legislation. Through the Kentucky Wildlands initiative, PRIDE is committed to continue promoting sustainable tourism and creating connectivity across the region and meets NHA criterion 10.

As a result, 35 out of the 44 counties analyzed are included in the conceptual boundary and meet the 10 NHA evaluation criteria. The Kentucky Wildlands study area is found eligible according to NPS guidelines for potential national heritage areas.

Table 1. NHA Feasibility Study Criteria Summary

Criteria	Meets Criteria
Criterion 1: An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.	Yes
Criterion 2: The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.	Yes
Criterion 3: The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.	Yes
Criterion 4: The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.	Yes
Criterion 5: Resources that are important to the identified theme(s) of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.	Yes
Criterion 6: Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments in the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.	Yes
Criterion 7: The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.	Yes
Criterion 8: The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.	Yes
Criterion 9: A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.	Yes (see figure 1)
Criterion 10: The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.	Yes

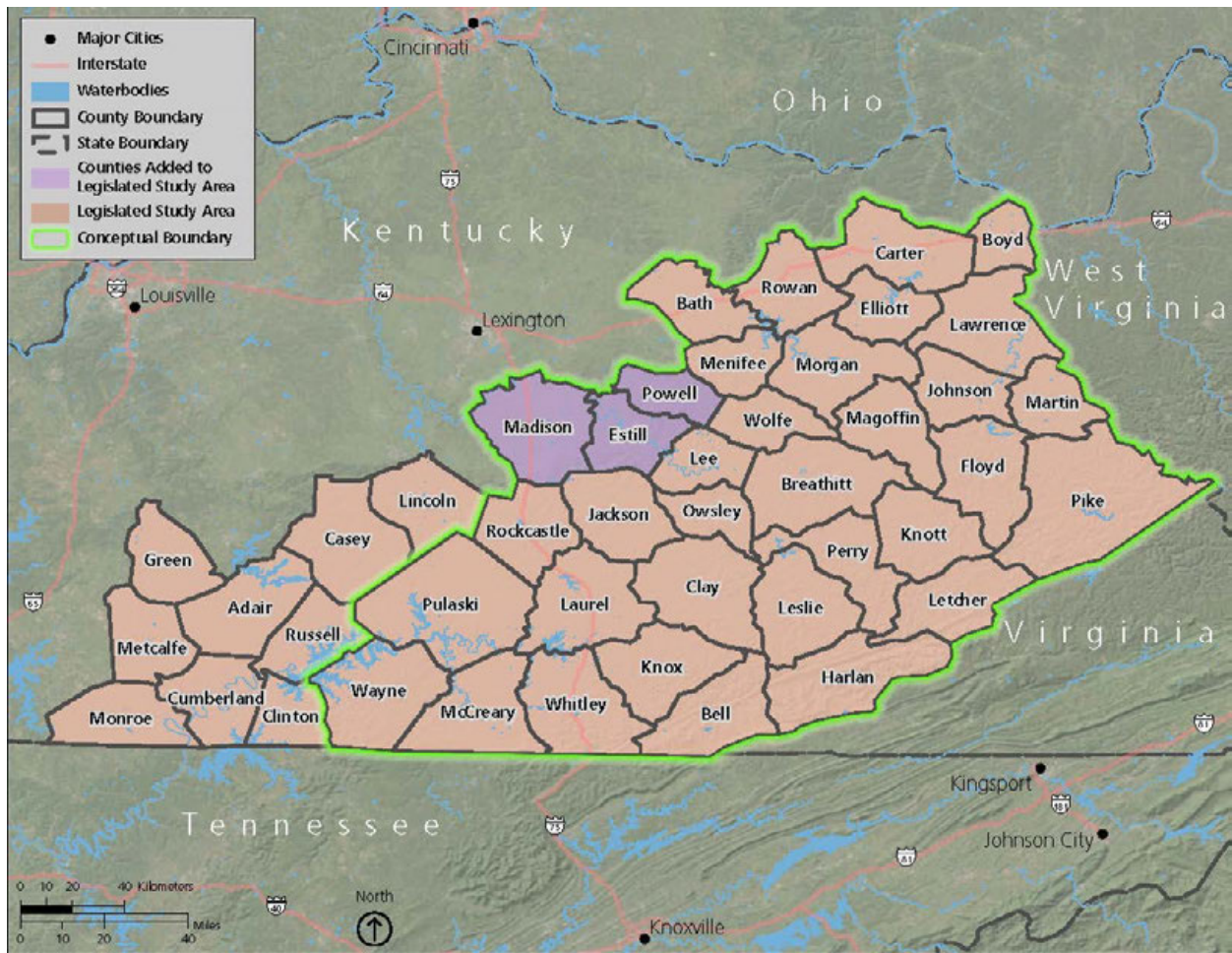


FIGURE 1. KENTUCKY WILDLANDS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA LEGISLATED STUDY AREA AND CONCEPTUAL BOUNDARY

This page intentionally blank.

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	i
Introduction.....	i
Legislative History	i
Study Area.....	i
Public Outreach	ii
Study Findings	ii
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Brief Description of the Study Area.....	1
Purpose of the Feasibility Study	1
Study Area.....	2
Definition of a National Heritage Area	3
Economic Impact of a National Heritage Area	4
Community-Based Approach.....	5
The Feasibility Process	6
10 Criteria for Evaluating a Potential National Heritage Area	8
Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act And National Historic Preservation Act.....	10
The Study Team	11
National Park Service.....	11
Subject Matter Experts	12
Tribal Engagement.....	13
Public Involvement.....	13
Letters of Support	15
What We Learned from the Public	17
Next Steps	17
Chapter 2: Study Area’s Contributions to National Heritage and Potential Themes	19
Nationally Distinctive Landscape	19
Landscape Analysis	20
Natural Environments and Landscapes	20
Native American Representation and Connections.....	26
Agriculture.....	29
Civil War and Its Aftermath	31
Extractive Industry	35

Activism and Education	41
Music Traditions.....	44
Analysis	48
Potential Themes	49
Conclusion	50
Chapter 3: Study Area Resource Analysis	51
Introduction.....	51
Methodology.....	51
Select Natural Resources	52
Water Resources.....	52
Special Use Waters.....	52
Kentucky Wild Rivers.....	54
US Army Corps of Engineers Managed Reservoirs.....	56
Land Protection efforts.....	57
Protected Areas.....	57
Habitat, Wildlife, and Rare Species.....	63
Select Cultural Resources	66
National Park Units.....	66
National Historic Landmarks	67
Kentucky State Historic Sites.....	68
National Register of Historic Places.....	69
Preserve America Communities.....	70
Select Recreational Resources.....	71
National Park Service.....	71
US Forest Service.....	71
Kentucky State Parks.....	73
Wildlife Management Areas	75
Trails.....	77
Additional Study Area Resources	82
Post-secondary Educational Institutions.....	82
Conclusion	84
Chapter 4: Criteria for Evaluating a Potential National Heritage Area.....	85
Criterion 1	85
Criterion 2	86

Criterion 3	88
Criterion 4	90
Criterion 5	92
Criterion 6	94
Criterion 7	97
Criterion 8	99
Criterion 9	100
Criterion 10	108
Chapter 5: Conclusion	111
Appendix A: Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Legislation (Public Law 116-94).....	A-1
Appendix B: National Heritage Area Act (Public Law 117-339).....	B-1
Appendix C: Partial Resource List	C-1
Appendix D: Letters of Support / Government Resolutions	D-1
Appendix E: List of Habitat, Wildlife, and Rare Species	E-1
Selected References.....	Ref-1

FIGURES

Figure 1. Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Legislated Study Area and Conceptual Boundary	v
Figure 2. Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Area	3
Figure 3. Physical Features of the Kentucky Wildlands Study Area	21
Figure 4. Special-Use Waters.....	54
Figure 5. Protected Areas Within the Study Area	63
Figure 6. Federal Lands In and Near the Study Area	73
Figure 7. Geologic Map of Kentucky	102
Figure 8. Physiographic Diagram of Kentucky	102
Figure 9. Physiographic Regions of Kentucky	104
Figure 10. Kentucky’s Cultural Landscapes	104
Figure 11. Kentucky Tourism Regions.....	105
Figure 12. Daniel Boone National Forest County Map	106

TABLES

Table 1. NHA Feasibility Study Criteria Summary.....	iv
Table 2. NHA Feasibility Study Requirements	9
Table 3. Summary of Public Outreach Activities	15
Table 4. Kentucky State Wild Rivers.....	54
Table 5. US Army Corps of Engineer Managed Reservoirs in the Study Area	56
Table 6. Summary of Protected Areas in the Study Area.....	58
Table 7. Kentucky Natural Areas	60
Table 8. National Natural Landmarks in the Study Area.....	62
Table 9. Designated Preserve American Communities in the Study Area	70
Table 10. Kentucky State Resort Parks in the Study Area.....	74
Table 11. Kentucky State Recreational Parks in the Study Area.....	74
Table 12. Kentucky Wildlife Management Areas.....	75
Table 13. Blue Water Trails in the Study Area	80
Table 14. National and Scenic Byways in the Study Area.....	81
Table 15. Conceptual NHA Income Expectations Provided by Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc.....	96
Table 16. Conceptual Expense Plan provided by Eastern Kentucky Pride (2023)	97

Chapter 1

Introduction



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Spanning across southern and eastern Kentucky, the 41 counties named in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area (NHA) Study Act are positioned primarily in the Ohio River Basin and profoundly shaped by the major river drainages in which they exist, including the Upper Cumberland, Green, Kentucky, Big Sandy, Licking, and Salt Rivers. In response to public comment, as well as the inherent similarities to the 41 counties named in the legislation, 3 additional counties are included and addressed in this study. Together, the 44 counties encompass about 17,229 square miles of Eastern Kentucky that stretch from the western margins of the Pottsville (Cumberland) Escarpment to steep, forested mountains in the east. This area is often described as one of the most topographically varied in the Eastern United States, and The Nature Conservancy has identified it as one of the more biodiverse regions in North America. The study area's hardwood forests, river plains and valleys, mountain landscapes, and karst and cave features are conserved within several county, state, and federally managed lands. Due to the natural constraints of the region's topography, communities in this region tend to remain small with a rural character and are represented by small towns, rural villages, and unincorporated settlements from the center of the state to where the Ohio River intersects the tri-state area of Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia.

PURPOSE OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The purpose of this national heritage area feasibility study is to determine whether an assemblage of sites and resources in Eastern Kentucky meets the feasibility criteria for the Kentucky Wildlands study area to be eligible for designation as a national heritage area. The Secretary of the Interior delegated preparation of the study to the National Park Service (NPS), as directed by Congress in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act (Public Law [P.L.] 116-94, Title XVIII). See appendix A of this document for the full text.

On January 5, 2023, Congress passed Public Law 117-339, the National Heritage Area Act, which officially established a national heritage area system and provides a process for the study and designation of new National Heritage Areas. See appendix A for the NHA feasibility study guidelines as outlined in the act. Development of the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Feasibility Study began before the passage of the National Heritage Area Act and therefore references criteria from the 2019 *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019). Table 2 includes a comparison of language found in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act, the National Heritage Area Guidelines, and the National Heritage Area Act of 2023.

STUDY AREA

Section 1802.4 of the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act defines the study area as follows:

(A) Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe Counties in the State; and

(B) any other areas in the state that—

(i) have heritage aspects that are similar to the heritage aspects described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, the areas described in that subparagraph.

Members of the public and local subject matter experts expressed support for three additional counties to be included in the National Park Service's analysis: Estill, Madison, and Powell Counties. Through additional research and discussion with experts, stakeholders, and the public, the National Park Service determined that the suggested counties have heritage aspects similar to the counties name in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act, and it would be appropriate to include them in the Kentucky Wildlands study area and NHA criteria analysis. Resources in a total of 44 counties are considered within this national heritage area feasibility study.

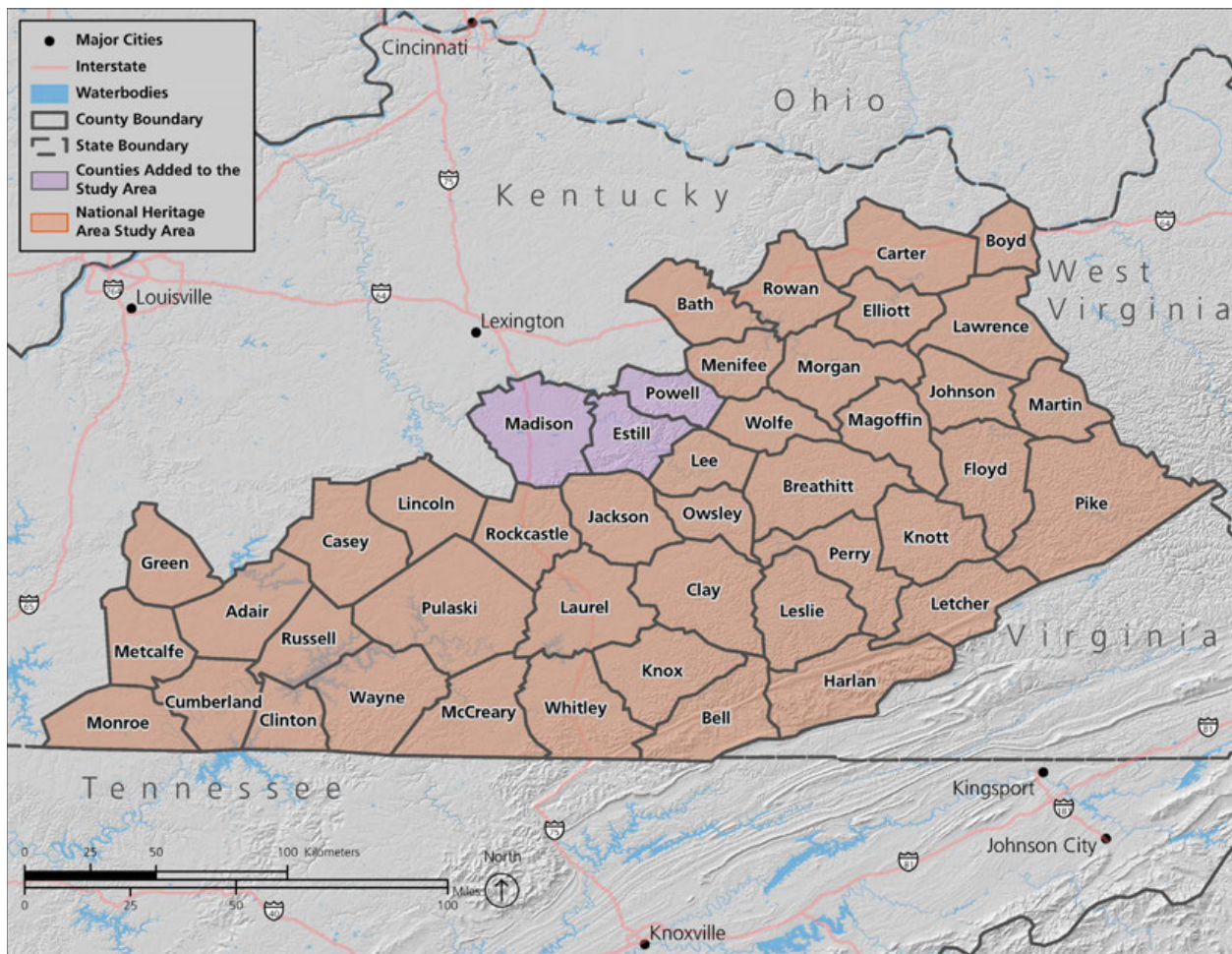


FIGURE 2. KENTUCKY WILDLANDS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY AREA

DEFINITION OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

The National Heritage Area Act (P.L. 117-339) established the national heritage area system:

To recognize certain areas of the United States that tell nationally significant stories and to conserve, enhance, and interpret those nationally significant stories and the natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources of areas that illustrate significant aspects of the heritage of the United States

National heritage areas are managed by a local entity in partnership with various stakeholders and partners. These stakeholders and partners include individual citizens; local, state, federal, and Tribal governments; and nonprofit and business sector groups. Together, these entities work to preserve the integrity of the area's distinct landscape and local stories so current and future generations understand this relationship to the land.

Using this approach, national heritage areas are partially based on their constituents' pride in their history and traditions and their interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting

their special landscapes. Heritage areas work across political boundaries to collaboratively shape a plan for preserving the area's unique and distinct qualities.

The federal government does not acquire land, manage land, or change land use controls through the creation of a national heritage area. Rather, national heritage areas accomplish their goals through partnerships with governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals. The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas. The National Park Service is a partner and advisor; decision-making authority is retained by the local people.

The heritage area designation process often begins with a community-based initiative to seek federal recognition as an official national heritage area. The first step in this process is called a feasibility study. For Kentucky Wildlands, Congress authorized a feasibility study with the urging of local community members. A feasibility study examines a region's history and resources and provides a strong foundation for success as a national heritage area if determined to be eligible. Congress often tasks the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service (as the federal body charged with administering the National Heritage Areas Program) to conduct these studies and attest whether a region has the resources and local financial and organizational capacity to carry out the responsibilities of designation. Based on the study findings, the Secretary of the Interior may make a recommendation to Congress through committee testimony. Should the Secretary recommend designation of a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, congressional legislation would still be necessary to designate it a national heritage area. Congress ultimately designates a national heritage area.

As of September 2023, Congress has designated 62 national heritage areas in 36 states and territories. For more information on national heritage areas, visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/>.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Criterion 8 states "The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area." In other words, a designation itself would not interfere with the existing business and trade activities of the region. In general, national heritage area designation has been shown to assist in improving local, regional, and state economic conditions and often augments existing heritage tourism activities. According to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, some of the benefits include leveraging federal dollars with local support, increasing community partnerships, conserving resources that make the region unique, improving quality of life, and creating sustainable economic strategies. Additional sales, jobs, payroll, and taxes paid to local governments may result from heritage area programs and projects.

A 2015 nationwide review of national heritage area economic impacts found that national heritage areas have a combined annual economic impact of \$12.9 billion, support 148,000 jobs, and generate \$1.2 billion in tax revenue. In addition, multiple economic impact case studies have been conducted for specific designated national heritage areas. In 2017, an economic impacts case study of the National Coal Heritage Area in neighboring West Virginia reported it generates \$207 million annually in economic impact, supports 2,744 jobs,

and generates \$16.8 million in tax revenue.¹ In 2013, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in western North Carolina completed an economic impact case study. The national heritage area reports \$2.39 billion in economic impact, supports 30,000 jobs, and generates \$176.5 million in tax revenue.²

National heritage areas represent a legislated commitment to expanding the economic benefits of heritage tourism. The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines heritage tourism as “traveling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present.”³ According to a national research study on US cultural and heritage travel conducted by Mandala Research in 2009, 78% of all US leisure travelers participate in cultural and/or heritage activities while traveling, translating to 118.3 million adults each year. Cultural and heritage visitors spend an average of \$994 per trip compared to \$611 for all US travelers. The National Trust also acknowledges that “perhaps the biggest benefits of cultural heritage tourism, though, are diversification of local economics and preservation of a community’s unique character.”

COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

National heritage areas expand approaches to resource stewardship by supporting community-based initiatives that connect citizens to the preservation and planning processes of local heritage stewardship. Through a local coordinating entity, stakeholders join collective efforts to protect the national heritage area’s cultural and natural resources. This cooperative approach aids national heritage areas to achieve conservation goals and economic growth consistent with the local vision and ongoing economic activities.

The federal government does not acquire land, manage land, or change land use controls through the creation of a national heritage area. Rather, national heritage areas accomplish their goals through partnerships with governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals. The National Park Service is a partner and advisor; decision-making authority is retained by the local people.

Through congressional designation, the local management entity develops a management plan addressing federal requirements for the national heritage area. The National Park Service assists the local management entity in this development, with the plan ultimately approved by the Secretary of the Interior, or designee. Each heritage area is created under an authorizing law; therefore, management plan requirements may differ according to each heritage area’s specific authorization. The National Park Service provides planning, technical assistance, and limited financial support, as appropriated by Congress. Federal financial support is available under the Heritage Partnership Program via cooperative agreements.

1 Tripp Umbach, “The Economic Impact of National Heritage Areas: A Case Study Approach- National Coal Heritage Area,” January 2017, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/Final_National-Coal-Heritage-Area-Economic-Impact-Report.pdf.

2 Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership, “The Economic Benefits of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area,” March 2014, <https://www.blueridgeheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/images/PDFs/Research/BRNHA%20Economic%20Impact%20and%20Benefits%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>.

3 “Heritage Tourism,” Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, accessed September 2023, https://www.achp.gov/heritage_tourism.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system, nor is any of its land owned or managed by the National Park Service, unless such land was previously set aside as a unit of the national park system. A designation of a national heritage area does not change current landownership. However, the designation of a national heritage area does not preclude the creation of new national park system units within the area boundaries. The National Heritage Area System Act (P.L. 117-339) states that the national heritage area system and national heritage area designation do not:

- (A) abridge any right of a public or private property owner, including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within a National Heritage Area;
- (B) require any property owner to permit public access (including Federal, State, Tribal government, or local government access) to a property
- (C) modify any provision of Federal, State, Tribal, or local law with respect to public access or use of private land;
- (D)(i) alter any applicable land use regulation, land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, or local agency or Tribal government; or
(ii) convey to any local coordinating entity any land use or other regulatory authority;
- (E) authorize or imply the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;
- (F) diminish the authority of a State to manage fish and wildlife, including through regulation of fishing and hunting within a National Heritage Area in the State; or
- (G) create or affect any liability—
 - (i) under any other provision of law; or
 - (ii) of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on private property.”

The national heritage area designation does not grant the federal government or any associated management entity the authority to regulate land, land uses, or water/property rights. The land use, zoning, and development controls of private property do not change with the action to designate a national heritage area. Participation in projects associated with the national heritage area program is always voluntary.

THE FEASIBILITY PROCESS

This national heritage area feasibility study has been prepared with the direction provided by the study legislation and the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. These guidelines provide a process to evaluate the feasibility of a national heritage area in the

Kentucky Wildlands area. In general, the objectives of this feasibility study, as related to the Kentucky Wildlands study area, are as follows:

- Identify and define the geographic extent of the Kentucky Wildlands study area that will be the primary focus of the feasibility study research, documentation, and inventory.
- Evaluate the local interest in the development of a national heritage area.
- Identify an interpretive thematic framework for understanding how the resources in the Kentucky Wildlands study area contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape.
- Inventory and evaluate the potential of resources in the study area to support the historic themes associated with the Kentucky Wildlands.
- Verify whether there is public support and a strong local commitment by a management entity to manage a national heritage area in the Kentucky Wildlands area.
- Determine if the Kentucky Wildlands study area meets all 10 criteria to be eligible as a potential national heritage area (criteria listed below).

The above overall objectives of the feasibility study were completed through a step-by-step process incorporating input from Tribal governments, the public, local groups and elected officials, and subject matter experts. As the feasibility study developed, resource inventories and documentation were gathered to provide a more complete understanding of all the resources that may contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape associated with the study area. The feasibility study process included the following tasks:

- Information gathering and public input
 - identified the study area's contribution to a national heritage using information provided by the public, site managers, and subject matter experts
 - drafted a narrative that explores the national importance of the study area and how it contributes to our national heritage
 - developed themes that provide a framework for interpretation and focused the feasibility study efforts on resources that can support these themes
 - conducted virtual public outreach to gather additional information on study area resources, existing heritage tourism efforts and organizations, the conceptual boundary, and the potential local management entity
 - conducted an inventory and site research into the resources that have the potential to support the identified themes and which collectively form a nationally distinctive landscape
- Preparation of the feasibility study
 - developed a feasibility study for internal NPS NHA program review

- refined the feasibility study based on NPS feedback
- Completion of the study and transmittal document
 - made a final determination as to whether the study area meets the 10 criteria for the evaluation of potential national heritage area designation
 - prepared document for transmittal to the Secretary of the Interior Designee, the director of the National Park Service, and then Congress for consideration

10 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A POTENTIAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

As identified above, this feasibility study includes an analysis and documentation determining feasibility based on the 10 criteria established by the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019). Chapter 5 of this feasibility study contains a detailed explanation of these criteria and discusses how the assemblage of sites in the feasibility study area relates to each criterion. This analysis provides the basis for determining the eligibility of designation as a national heritage area. The 10 evaluation criteria used in this study are as follows:

1. The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities and by contributing diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.
2. The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.
3. The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.
4. The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.
5. Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.
6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants, including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.
7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.
8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.
9. The public supports a conceptual boundary map.
10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

In addition to the 10 criteria outlined in the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the legislation directing the preparation of the feasibility study also provided direction on how the study area was to be evaluated. However, the direction provided in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Study Act generally corresponds to the 10 NPS criteria.

Table 2 shows the 2019 NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criteria alongside the authorizing legislation’s requirements. For consistency in presentation of NPS studies, the NPS study team prepared the study document following the outline presented in the 2019 NHA guidelines, but table 2 indicates how the legislative direction was incorporated.

Table 2. NHA Feasibility Study Requirements

Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act (P.L. 116-94), Subparts (1)–(8)	NPS <i>National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines</i> (2019)	National Heritage Area Act (P.L. 117-339)
(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that— (A) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States; (B) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and (C) would be best managed— (i) through partnerships among public and private entities; and (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;	1. An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;	(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that— (i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States (ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and (iii) would be best managed— (I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and (II) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;
(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;	2. Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story;	(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that area a valuable part of the story of the United States:
(3) provides outstanding opportunities— (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and	3. Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and /or scenic features;	(C) provides outstanding opportunities-- (i) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and
(B) for recreation and education;	4. Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;	(ii) for recreation and education;
(4) contains resources that— (A) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and	5. The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity	(D) contains resources that—

Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act (P.L. 116-94), Subparts (1)–(8)	NPS National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines (2019)	National Heritage Area Act (P.L. 117-339)
(B) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;	capable of supporting interpretation;	(i) are important to any identified themes of the proposed National Heritage Area; and (ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;
(5) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that— (A) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area; (B) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and (C) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Heritage Area;	6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants, including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area;	(E) includes a diverse group of residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that— (i) are involved in the planning of the proposed National Heritage Area; (ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the proposed National Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and (iii) have demonstrated significant support for the designation of the proposed National Heritage Area;
(6) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity;	7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area; 8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area; 10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.	(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the proposed National Heritage Area ...
(7) could impact the rights of private property owners with respect to their private property;	9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public;	while encouraging State and local economic activity; and
(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.	9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public;	(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

This feasibility study complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which mandates all federal agencies to analyze the impacts of major federal actions that have a

significant effect on the environment, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, which requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects on historic properties.

The NPS guidance for addressing NEPA is set forth in Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*, which outlines several options for meeting the act, depending on the severity of the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

A "categorical exclusion for which no formal documentation is necessary" was selected as the most appropriate NEPA pathway for this feasibility study. The feasibility study is excluded from requiring an environmental assessment because it matches one of the categories that, under normal circumstances, has no potential for impacts on the human environment. The categorical exclusion selected states:

Legislative proposals of an administrative or technical nature (including such things as changes in authorizations for appropriations and minor boundary changes and land title transactions) or having primarily economic, social, individual, or institutional effects; and comments and reports on referrals of legislative proposals. (43 CFR 46.210)

This feasibility study is consistent with this categorical exclusion because it was directed by Congress to determine if this area meets the feasibility requirement for designation as a national heritage area.

Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to identify and assess the effects its actions may have on historic buildings. While this feasibility study has been completed using federal funds and discusses the potential for inclusion in a federal program, there are no activities proposed through this feasibility study. Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places were considered as part of the NHA criteria analysis, and any future undertakings that use federal funding and have potential to adversely impact one or more of the study area's historic properties will be subject to the consultation requirements outlined in section 106.

In essence, this feasibility study is a report on a legislative proposal. If Congress decides to designate the feasibility study area as a national heritage area, then a comprehensive management plan would be developed for the area. Depending on the types of projects, programs, and other actions proposed in that management plan, section 106 may be applied, and an environmental assessment may be necessary at that time.

THE STUDY TEAM

National Park Service

An interdisciplinary team of NPS staff, including community planners, cultural resource specialists, and natural resource specialists, was assembled to conduct this feasibility study. National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program representatives for the Southeast Regional Office/Unified Department of Interior Region 2 and the National Program Office

also contributed to the feasibility study findings. Subject matter experts and historians familiar with Kentucky, Native Nations, and the Kentucky Wildlands were called on to provide perspectives and related sources and review and provide comments on draft historic context and nationally important themes.

Subject Matter Experts

In fall of 2022, the National Park Service hosted three virtual sessions with local subject matter experts to inform the study. The participants had diverse local knowledge related to cultural resources, local traditions and lifeways, county histories, recreational opportunities, education opportunities, and/or the economic benefits of heritage tourism in this area of Kentucky. National Park Service facilitators shared a brief presentation providing background on the National Heritage Areas Program. Following the presentation, NPS staff engaged with participants in an informal conversation about the Kentucky Wildlands area and resources found in each county related to the distinctive landscape. The group was asked to consider if the 41 counties named in the study legislation embody a nationally distinctive story and landscape and what themes and resources associated with the area may support NPS NHA criteria. Participants were also encouraged to share additional information or sources with the NPS study team as a follow-up to the virtual discussions.

Participants were asked to address the following prompts:

- What makes Eastern Kentucky a nationally distinctive area, and how does the study area contribute to or exemplify a distinctive aspect of America's national heritage? How does the area's history and natural landscape fit into a broader idea of national heritage? What unique American stories are being told here, and why is the study area the place to tell them?
- What are examples of continuing customs and traditions, including among populations underrepresented in the overall historic narrative, evident in your county that link the current landscape and people to the area's national importance?
- What resources/counties should a potential boundary for a future Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area include?

Participants in the focus groups played an important part in the feasibility study effort by providing information on study area resources, potential heritage area themes, and a proposed national heritage area boundary. Members of the local nonprofit Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. (PRIDE) provided support for public outreach efforts. Representatives from the following organizations participated in the subject matter experts calls:

- Eastern Kentucky University
- University of Kentucky
- Kentucky Adventure Tourism
- US Artists Fellow in Traditional Arts

- Mountain Association for Community Economic Development
- Corbell Tourism Office
- Morehead State University
- Morehead Tourism Office
- Corbin Tourism and Convention Commission
- Kentucky Arts Council
- Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission
- Friends of Boone Trace, Inc.
- Warrior's Path
- Kentucky State Parks
- Somerset Community College

TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

The National Park Service engaged eight federally recognized Tribal governments located in or associated with the study area. Invitations to participate via formal letters were sent to the Shawnee Tribe, Cherokee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, The Osage Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Individual meetings with Tribes were held upon request. The Osage Nation verbally supported the study and expressed interest in coordinating with the National Park Service should the area become designated. No additional comments or concerns were received from Tribal Nations.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The National Park Service solicited public feedback related to the proposed Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area through a digital and print newsletter, the project's NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, and a virtual public meeting. The public scoping newsletter was distributed in September 2021 to neighboring property owners, Kentucky state agencies, preservation partners, and related nonprofit organizations. The newsletter served to increase public understanding of national heritage areas and encouraged citizen participation in the National Park Service's study process. An online story map provided a map of the proposed national heritage area, an overview of existing nearby national heritage areas, and a description of the study process. The National Park Service held three virtual public meetings on March 10, 2022, and two on March 15, 2022. Meeting materials, a recording, and a transcription of the live event were uploaded to the project PEPC site and were available throughout the comment period.

To achieve this goal, the following public involvement strategy was developed:

- Promote public understanding of national heritage areas and how they are managed.
- Inform the public about the study, and maximize their participation in the process.
- Assess public support for a national heritage area designation.
- Determine if there is local capacity and commitment to coordinate a future national heritage area.

Open public engagement was fundamental to every step of this feasibility study process. Ultimately, the reason for an integrated public involvement approach is that a future national heritage area designation would require strong support and active participation from its local citizens. The following organizations provided support during the public comment period:

- Berea College
- Center for Biological Diversity
- City of London Tourism
- Corbin Tourism and Convention Commission
- Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc.
- Explore Estill
- Friends of Boone Trace, Inc.
- Harlan County Fiscal Court
- Kentucky Heartwood
- Kentucky Natural Lands
- Kragon Fort Ancient Village
- Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.
- McCreary County Fiscal Court
- McCreary County Heritage Foundation
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Somerset Independent Schools
- Somerset Pulaski Convention and Visitors Bureau
- The Appalachian Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
- The Nature Conservancy
- Warriors Path Project

Table 3. Summary of Public Outreach Activities

Date	Method	Description of Activity	Number of Participants
Fall 2020	Virtual meetings	Conducted potential coordinating entity interviews	1 participating organization
Summer 2021	Letters to affiliated Tribes	Sent letters to Tribal historic preservation offices	11 affiliated Tribes
March–June 2022	Project PEPC website	Initiated the public comment period	499 correspondences
March–June 2022	Virtual public meetings	Conducted presentations and a question-and-answer session for interested parties and groups in the study area	3 presentations
Summer 2022	Follow-up e-mails to affiliated Tribes	Sent e-mails to Tribal historic preservation offices	11 affiliated Tribes
Fall 2022	Virtual meeting	Discussed the study with Osage Nation at their request	1 Osage Nation
Fall 2022	Targeted subject matter expert roundtable	Discussed the study with subject matter experts to inform the study	16 subject matter experts
March–June 2022	Project PEPC website	Initiated the public comment period	499 correspondences
March–June 2021	Virtual public meetings	Conducted presentations and a question-and-answer session for interested parties and groups in the study area	3 presentations

Letters of Support

The National Park Service received resolutions from 32 cities and 37 counties in support of the national heritage area designation, as follows:

Municipal Resolutions

- City of Ashland (Boyd County)
- City of Barbourville (Knox County)
- City of Beattyville (Lee County)
- City of Benham (Harlan County)
- City of Berea (Madison County)
- City of Booneville (Owsley County)
- City of Burkesville (Cumberland County)
- City of Burnside (Pulaski County)
- City of Catlettsburg (Boyd County)

- City of Corbin (Laurel, Knox, and Whitley Counties)
- City of Edmonton (Metcalf County)
- City of Grayson (Carter County)
- City of Greensburg (Green County)
- City of Harlan (Harlan County)
- City of Inez (Martin County)
- City of Liberty (Casey County)
- City of Livingston (Rockcastle County)
- City of Lynch (Harlan County)
- City of Manchester (Clay County)
- City of McKee (Jackson County)
- City of Monticello (Wayne County)
- City of Mt. Vernon (Rockcastle County)
- City of Olive Hill (Carter County)
- City of Paintsville (Johnson County)
- City of Pikesville (Pike County)
- City of Pineville (Bell County)
- City of Salyersville (Magoffin County)
- City of Somerset (Pulaski County)
- City of Stanford (Lincoln County)
- City of Warfield (Martin County)
- City of West Liberty (Morgan County)
- City of Williamsburg (Whitley County)

County Resolutions

- Adair County
- Bath County
- Bell County
- Boyd County
- Breathitt County
- Casey County
- Clay County
- Clinton County
- Cumberland County
- Elliott County
- Floyd County
- Harlan County
- Jackson County
- Johnson County
- Knott County
- Knox County
- Laurel County
- Lawrence County
- Lee County
- Letcher County
- Lincoln County
- Magoffin County
- Martin County
- McCreary County

- Menifee County
- Metcalfe County
- Perry County
- Pike County
- Rockcastle County
- Rowan County
- Russell County
- Wayne County
- Whitley County
- Wolfe County

What We Learned from the Public

The National Park Service received a total of 499 individual correspondences via the project website, e-mailed comments, and mailed letters. Of the total number of correspondences received, 32 were local government resolutions supporting a national heritage area. Individuals in 14 states submitted public comments.

Most survey respondents agreed the Kentucky Wildlands region is a “nationally notable area” and/or the region should be recognized as a national heritage area; the National Park Service did not receive any public comments that did not support the potential creation of a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area. The responses referenced the natural world, cultural resources, and recreation opportunities in the study area. Several responders hoped and/or believed a national heritage area designation would provide a broader awareness of the region, leading to additional economic development and protection and conservation of the region’s natural and cultural resources. The public provided support for PRIDE as a local coordinating entity and suggestions for other possible organizations to serve as the coordinating entity including universities and outreach nonprofits. Resources, local traditions, and other information gathered through the public and community outreach activities have been incorporated into the contributions and potential themes (chapter 2), resource analysis (chapter 3), and NHA criteria analysis (chapter 4).

NEXT STEPS

Per authorizing legislation, the Secretary of the Interior will submit a report to Congress that describes the findings of this study and any subsequent conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

This page intentionally blank.

Chapter 2

Study Area's Contributions to National Heritage and Potential Themes



CHAPTER 2: STUDY AREA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL HERITAGE AND POTENTIAL THEMES

NATIONALLY DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPE

To determine whether the study area contains nationally important themes and related assemblages of resources that helped shape the national story, the study team analyzed the historic context of the Kentucky Wildlands area, facilitated conversations with local experts, considered public comments, conducted a site visit to the study area, and spoke to local stakeholders. These discussions and additional research helped identify the study area's role in the national story and the development of proposed national heritage area (NHA) themes to determine if there was a nationally distinctive landscape, one of the first steps in determining a potential national heritage area's feasibility. The term "landscape" encompasses the ecological and cultural context for historic and cultural sites, as well as the ecosystems and human communities surrounding those sites.

According to the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019), nationally distinctive landscapes are places that contain important regional and national stories that, together with their associated natural and/or cultural resources, enable the American people to understand, preserve, and celebrate key components of the multifaceted character of the nation's heritage. The landscapes are often places that represent and contain identifiable assemblages of resources with integrity associated with one or more of the following:

1. important historical periods of the nation and its people
2. major events, persons, and groups that contributed substantively to the nation's history, customs, beliefs, and folklore
3. distinctive cultures and cultural mores
4. major industries and technological, business, manufacturing innovations/practices, and labor advancements that contributed substantively to the economic growth of the nation and the well-being of its people
5. transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in important military actions, settlement, migration, and commerce
6. social movements that substantively influenced past and present-day society
7. American art, crafts, literature, and music
8. distinctive architecture and architectural periods and movements
9. major scientific discoveries and advancements
10. other comparable representations that, together with their associated resources, substantively contributed to the nation's heritage

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

The following topics were repeatedly identified in public comments during the subject matter expert discussions and throughout the study team site visit.

Natural Environments and Landscapes

The study area is positioned in the Ohio River Basin and contains the headwaters of several major river systems, including the Upper Cumberland, Green, Kentucky, Big Sandy, Licking and Salt Rivers, ranging from the western margins of the Pottsville (Cumberland) Escarpment to steep forested mountains on the east.⁴ The Pottsville Escarpment and its related geology (described below) are considered a transition zone from the gentle rolling landscapes of Western and Central Kentucky into the more topographically diverse regions of Eastern Kentucky that principally define the study area (figure 3).

Owing to the association of latitude, precipitation patterns, geology and topography, the system of rivers, and streams and wetlands, this area is considered one of the most biologically rich ecosystems in the world⁵ and is reflected in the diverse assemblage of aquatic-dependent plant and animal species found in these freshwater habitats.⁶ While landcover has changed significantly with the onset of European and European American settlement, the landscape retains a high character of biodiversity.

Kentucky Wildlands primarily falls within the expansive vegetation community known as the eastern broadleaf deciduous forest, though the varied elevational range in this region influences the vegetation types at a local scale. The higher elevations of the study area support a mixed oak-pine forest in the valleys, while northeastern hardwood forests dominate middle elevations, and spruce-fir forest and meadows are found at the highest elevations. Bottomland hardwood forests—once widespread throughout the southeastern United States—are characteristic of the wide floodplains at lower elevations as waterways approach the Ohio River. The meandering waterways of the Green, Cumberland, and Salt Rivers flowing into the lower elevations near the Ohio River continue to exhibit good occurrences of bottomland hardwood forests.⁷

4 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, "Kentucky State Wildlife Action Plan," accessed October 2023, <https://app.fw.ky.gov/kyswap/>;

5 NatureServe Network, "The Map of Biodiversity Importance: Richness of Imperiled Species in the United States," 2021, https://landscape12.arcgis.com/arcgis/rest/services/USA_CONUS_imperiled_species_richness_All/ImageServer.

6 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, "Kentucky State Wildlife Action Plan"; NatureServe Network, "States of the Union, Ranking America's Biodiversity," April 2022, <https://www.natureserve.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/stateofunions.pdf>.

7 Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, "In the Spotlight: Bottomland Hardwood Forest," *Naturally Kentucky*, no. 74 (Summer/Fall 2015), https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/About_Us/news/Newsletters/NatKy74_SummerFall2015.pdf.

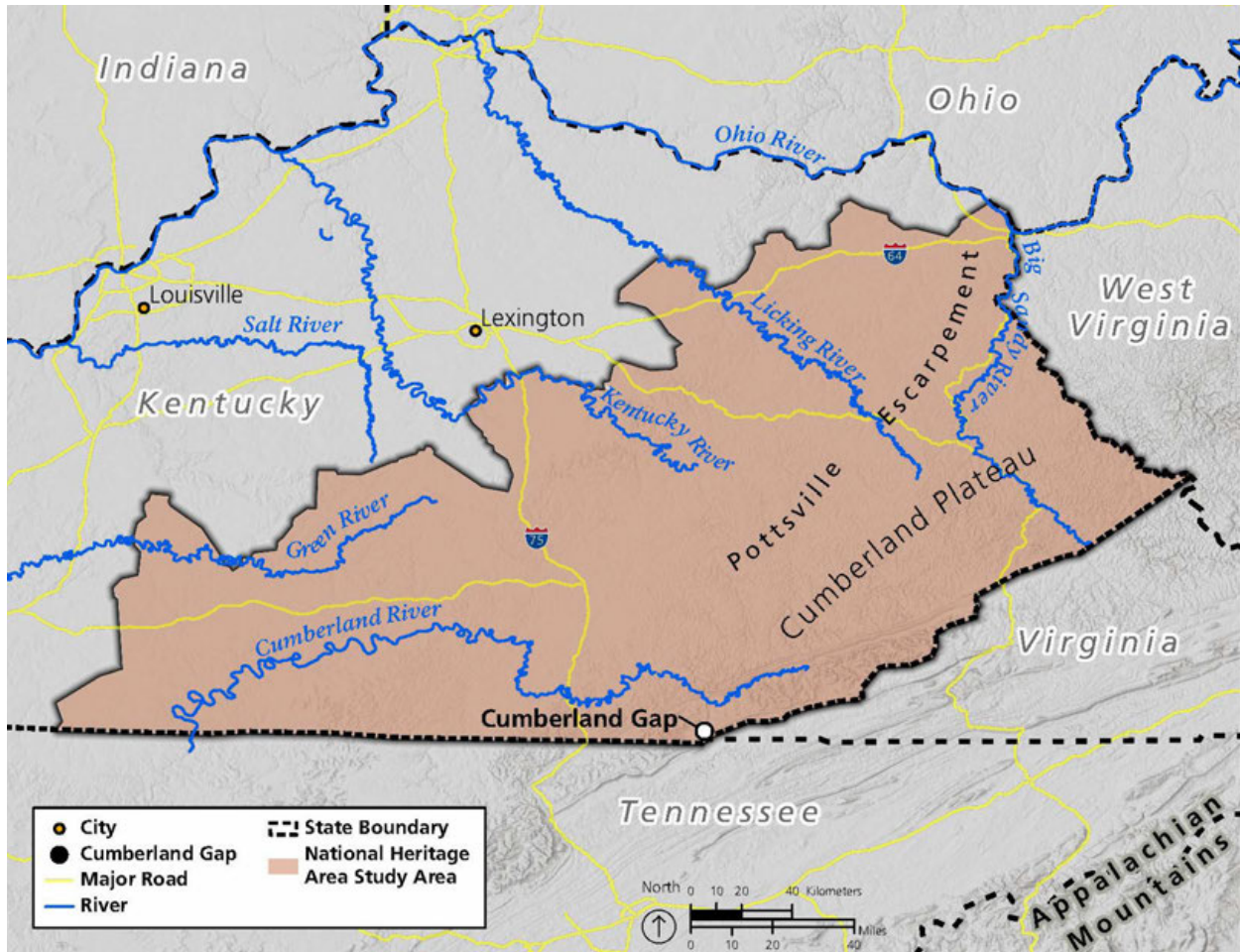


FIGURE 3. PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE KENTUCKY WILDLANDS STUDY AREA

The 44 counties in the study area encompass about 17,229 square miles, including about 16,996 square miles of terrestrial areas and 233 square miles of surface waters.⁸ Broad categories of natural resources include hardwood forested landscapes, river plains and valleys, karst features, and bituminous coal deposits. Owing to the association of latitude, precipitation patterns and geological history, combined with a rolling topography and its system of rivers and streams, wetlands, and highlands, the landscape of the Kentucky Wildlands region is one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.⁹

Geology

The study area intersects with three physiographic regions, described below.¹⁰

8 US Census Bureau, 2020 Census, accessed August 2023, https://services.arcgis.com/P3ePLMYs2RVChkxj/ArcGIS/rest/services/USA_Census_2020_DHC_Total_Population/FeatureServer.

9 Greg Abernathy, Deborah White, Ellis L. Laudermilk, and Marc Evans, *Kentucky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity* Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2010.

10 W. L. Newell, "Physiography" in: *US Geological Survey. The Geology of Kentucky - A Text to Accompany the Geologic Map of Kentucky* (January 9, 2001), <https://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/p1151h/physiography.html>.

Bluegrass Region — The north central portion of the study area is defined by a gently rolling lowland underlain by an exposed outcrop of sedimentary carbonate (limestone) and shales substrates that formed up to 450–500 million years ago (Ordovician and Silurian period of geologic timescale). The characteristic rolling hills in this region occurred due to the weathering of the relatively thick-bedded limestone that is a feature of central Kentucky. Millions of years of weathering has also produced sinkholes, sinking streams, springs, caves, and well-developed fertile soils in this region. The soil fertility is largely due to the phosphate mineral content of the limestone layers and contributes to the lush growth of grasslands found here. A representative feature of this region is the Kentucky River Palisades along the Kentucky River, where massive limestone formations are cut through and exposed by the river. These massive limestones are among the oldest geological layers that are exposed at the surface in Kentucky.

Mississippian Plateau — The western portion of the study area intersects with the Mississippian Plateau or Pennyroyal Plateau, a regional feature of south-central and western Kentucky that extends into Tennessee. This area is an upland plain underlain by mostly limestone rock that is capped in some areas by harder sandstone substrates. The geological formations that define this region date back about 330 million years (Mississippian or Early Carboniferous¹¹ period of the geologic timescale). Over millions of years, the thick limestone deposits have eroded through a complex network of waters moving over the surface and through the ground. This terrain is typically defined as “karst” and presently features thousands of sinkholes, sinking streams, dry valleys, springs, and caverns. The portion of this region included in this study is typified by rugged terrain that emerges as the foothills for the Eastern Kentucky Coalfield (Cumberland Plateau) region.

The eastern edge of this region is bounded by the Pottsville (Cumberland) Escarpment, where it meets the Eastern Kentucky Coalfield physiographic region (below). This escarpment is a landscape-defining ridge largely formed from resistant sandstones and conglomerate layers separated by less resistant shales sequences that date back 300 million years. The softer shale layers are more prone to erosion than the harder sandstones and conglomerates, and the result over millions of years of weathering and erosion is the concentration of remarkable scenic resources characterized by sheer cliffs, steep gorges, rockshelters, waterfalls, natural bridges, and arches. This region contains some of the most scenic areas in Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky Coalfield — The most prominent physiographic region intersecting the study area is the Eastern Kentucky Coalfield. The Eastern Kentucky Coalfield is part of a larger physiographic region called the Cumberland Plateau, which is the southern portion of the Appalachian Plateau that extends from New York to Alabama. The shale and sandstone deposits that make up this region’s steep slopes date back 300 million years (Pennsylvanian or Late Carboniferous period of the geologic timescale). The flat sequences of coal-bearing rocks define the mountain slopes in this region and are deeply incised by erosional ravine features. Most of the terrain is dominated by steep slopes of sandstone and shale and

¹¹ Geologic stratigraphy references, as defined by the International Commission on Stratigraphy within the International Union of Geological Sciences, <https://stratigraphy.org/>.

blanketed by a complex accumulation soft rock fragments and weathered debris. This debris moves downslope by debris avalanche, landslide, creep, and sheet wash. Well-developed soils are uncommon, and when they occur, they are found as high-level deposits on ridge crests and flattened areas. This area is dominated by forested hills and dissected by V-shaped valleys. The elevations in this region are among the highest in Kentucky. Scenic erosional features in this area may include pinnacles or “chimneys,” “rock houses,” and arches or natural bridges. The western edge of this region is bounded by the Pottsville or Cumberland Escarpment (described above).

Ecoregions

The Kentucky State Wildlife Action Plan (Kentucky DFWR 2023) uses the ecoregion designations developed by the Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with other state and federal agencies to provide a common framework for researching, assessing, and monitoring ecosystems across political boundaries. This methodology for understanding and describing ecosystems in this context is especially useful to inform conservation and other management activities among and between agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners who may be responsible for managing different types of resources in a given area. The study area falls under four ecoregions (Level III ecoregions, as developed by the Environmental Protection Agency) which overlay three physiographic regions (described above).¹²

Interior Plateau — The Interior Plateau is a diverse ecoregion that extends from southern Indiana and Ohio into central Kentucky and Tennessee and northern Alabama, with an elevational range of about 340 to 1,350 feet and overlays the Bluegrass physiographic region. The natural vegetation in this area is primarily oak-hickory forest, with some areas of native bluestem prairie, cedar glades, and mixed forests that thrive in moist environments. Forests containing white, northern red and black oak, hickories, yellow poplar, red maple, and eastern red cedar are typical. The terrain here contains landforms that are mostly rolling, with irregular plains, karst plains, and dissected plateaus, open hills and ridges, and some steep slopes and ravines. Perennial and intermittent streams and rivers in this area are of mostly low-to-moderate gradients. The springs, caves, and sinks located here contribute significantly to this ecoregion’s distinct animal occurrences and distributions, including a diverse assemblages of fish species and invertebrate species.

In this region, the prevalent land uses include forest and wood lots, with pasture and cropland where flatter terrain exists. Agricultural production includes hay (legume, grasses), corn, small grains, tobacco, and soybeans. Urban expansion is occurring in areas where broader areas of flatter terrain are prevalent. In the study area, larger urban centers include Richmond (Madison County) and Somerset (Pulaski County).

Western Allegheny Plateau — This ecoregion covers an area from southwestern Pennsylvania, southeast Ohio, western West Virginia, and northeastern Kentucky. This area has an

12 Ed Wilken, Francisco Jiménez Nava, and Glenn Griffith, North American Terrestrial Ecoregions—Level III (Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Montreal, Canada), April 2011, <http://www.cec.org/files/documents/publications/10415-north-american-terrestrial-ecoregionslevel-iii-en.pdf>.

elevational range from about 900 to 1,500 feet and is associated mostly with the Eastern Kentucky Coalfield physiographic region. The native vegetation in this area is generally described as a mixed moist-environment forest type that is dominated by chestnut, white and black oaks, red maple, beech, yellow poplar, sugar maple, and ash. The terrain is fairly rugged, with dissected plateaus, hills, and ridges. The rougher topography provides conditions for a high density of moderate to high-gradient streams; however, coal mining activities have profoundly modified the landscape in certain areas causing changes in stream structure and water quality through increased sedimentation rates and acidification. The wildlife distribution in this area is reflective of a more hilly, forested environment that includes white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, wild turkeys, and forest bird species.

As this region is mostly forest, land uses include logging and related forestry activities. Public use of national forest lands for recreation also receives a high level of attention. Where landscape conditions can accommodate agricultural practices, livestock and dairy farming occur, along with some cropland establishment for hay (legume, grass), small grains, and tobacco. Larger settlements in this region include Ashland (Boyd County) and Morehead (Rowan County).

Southwestern Appalachians — This ecoregion occurs over areas of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. This area has an elevational range of about 720 to 1,520 feet and is associated with the Mississippian Plateau and Eastern Kentucky Coalfield physiographic regions. The terrain is a combination of dissected tablelands and steep mountainsides with cliffs, ravines, and gorges. Slightly higher elevations here influence the native vegetation. Upland forests are dominated by mixed oaks with shortleaf pine and some hickories. In the deeper ravines and lower slopes, the mixed moist-environment forests include maple, buckeye, beech, sweetgum, and basswood trees species. Streams are small and perennial with a moderate-to-high gradient, and waterfalls may be found along areas with steeper landforms. Owing to the prevalence of forests and woodlands in this region, wildlife such as white-tailed deer, black bear, racoon, mink, bats, and forest birds find suitable habitat here.

In this region, prevalent types of land use include forest and woodland uses, with some smaller areas of pasture and cropland (Commission for Environmental Cooperation 2011). Agricultural production of soybeans, corn, hay, wheat, and tobacco occurs where ideal conditions for cropland exist. Natural lakes are rare, though some large reservoirs occur, and are usually an outcome of Army Corps of Engineers projects. Coal mining makes up a large portion of the land use in this region. Larger settlements in this region include London (Laurel County) and Corbin, Kentucky (Whitley County).

Central Appalachians — This an ecoregion extends from central Pennsylvania through Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and into northern Tennessee. With an elevational range of about 490 to 4,000 feet, the terrain here reflects the highest elevations of the study area, and mostly overlays the Eastern Kentucky Coalfield. This area is higher, cooler, steeper, deeply dissected, more rugged, and more densely forested than the other ecoregions in the study area. The highly diverse terrain includes low mountains, high hills, steep narrow ridges, narrow winding valleys, and deep coves. The forest types in the region are adapted to a mixed moist environment and were once dominated by the American chestnut. Presently, the forests consist of chestnut, white, and black oaks, yellow poplar,

sugar maple, buckeye, and hemlock. At the highest elevations are areas of red spruce and hemlock. The area has a high density of perennial moderate- and high-gradient streams and some waterfalls, though coal mining has reshaped ridges and hollows in some areas, which is changing stream structure and chemistry due to siltation and acidification from coal mining activities. Wildlife such as black bear, red fox, bobcat, weasel, box turtles, and timber rattlesnakes live here. Likely due to the density of perennial freshwater streams, the area includes a diverse assemblage of fish species, including smallmouth bass, minnows, and darters.

Like many of the eastern regions of Kentucky, land uses are limited to forestland practices, though where more level terrain is available, areas of pasture or livestock or dairy operations may exist. Surface and underground bituminous coal mines are a predominant land use in this region. Notable communities include Pikeville (Pike County), Hazard (Perry County), and Middlesboro (Bell County).

Recreation

The study area is known for its abundant recreation opportunities that include a combination of forests, mountains, rivers, lakes, and more than 800 waterfalls, as well as a rich history of heritage and culture. Though hunting and fishing have a long history of subsistence use for self-reliance in Kentucky, these activities remain popular as recreational activities, and outdoor recreation is recognized as a continuum of Kentucky's cultural heritage. Reporting by the Outdoor Industry Association indicates that outdoor recreation comprises approximately 2% of the state's gross domestic product. Total outdoor recreation value added to Kentucky was \$4.8 billion in 2021 and the state has experienced 22.2% growth in value added by outdoor recreation since 2020.¹³

In the study area, the diverse ecology and relatively undeveloped nature characterized by the mixed forests, striking geology, wetlands, rivers, and streams provides an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities. Each year, millions of recreationists are reported to engage directly in fishing and wildlife recreation (Kentucky DFWR 2023). However, outdoor pursuits also include hiking, bicycling, climbing, camping, wildlife viewing, and water-based recreation such as paddling (e.g., canoes, kayaks), boating, and white-water rafting. Residents and visitors to Kentucky may find recreational opportunities in several of the state's public lands, such as forests, wildlife management areas, parks and nature preserves (Kentucky DFWR 2023). The Kentucky Department of Natural Resources prioritizes a multifaceted approach for protection, restoring, or enhancing existing habitats for wildlife species; however, this also benefits outdoor enthusiasts seeking undeveloped areas in which to recreate.

In addition to recreation that is based on Kentucky's natural heritage, there is a substantial number of outdoor recreation opportunities provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who is one of the nation's leading federal providers of outdoor recreation, and is an important component of the tourism industry, having considerable impacts on local

13 "Kentucky" *Outdoor Industry Association*, accessed August 2023, <https://outdoorindustry.org/state/kentucky>.

economies.¹⁴ The USACE recreational opportunities are centered around the Corps' civil works program projects, whose primary function is developing waterway infrastructure (projects include navigation locks and dams, flood risk reduction, and hydroelectric power). The associated infrastructure for these waterway infrastructure projects provides recreation that includes fishing and boating and other water sports, interpretation and education opportunities, camping, trail networks for hiking, horseback riding and wildlife observation, and mountain biking. The study area falls within the Louisville, Nashville, and Huntington Districts in the USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and they partner with several federal, state, and local agencies to provide recreational facilities for visitors.

The elevation of outdoor recreation opportunities stems from efforts coordinated through PRIDE. Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, with a mission to contribute to economic and cultural growth of Southern and Eastern Kentucky and promote "Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment." The organization carries out its mission through environmental improvements and restoration and advancing regional tourism in the study area. Additionally, PRIDE works with a wide variety of partners who are focused on economic development in the area. Recently, PRIDE has begun focusing on marketing that is directed towards outdoor tourism and recreation.

Please refer to appendix B for a partial resource list that includes outdoor recreational opportunities.

Native American Representation and Connections

A rich archaeological record across Kentucky underscores a significant level of occupation and resource use dating back to the Paleoindian Period (around 9500–8000 BCE). The earliest evidence available indicates a dispersion of mobile hunter-gatherer groups into present-day Kentucky late in the last Ice Age (Last Glacial Period, late Pleistocene Epoch, about 11,500 years ago), who hunted the large, now-extinct mammals representative of that time period, including (wooly mammoth, mastodon).

As the climate changed from a boreal climate with long, intensively cold winters and short, cool summers to Holocene climate with less precipitation interspersed with long dry spells, people remained in small mobile groups ranging in larger territories and hunted deer, elk, bear, and smaller mammals associated with forested areas. The archaeological evidence of the Archaic Period (around 8000–1000 BCE) also indicates that early peoples used a high level of aquatic resources such as freshwater mussels and fish and processed plant foods such as wild fruits and nuts, among other plant resources.

By the Woodland Period (1,000 BCE–1000 CE), Indigenous peoples in Eastern Kentucky had domesticated native plants that produced edible greens and seeds that provided much-

14 S. Cline and C. Crowley, "Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation on Federal Lands (Washington, DC: The US Department of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis, 2018); Christopher Leggett, Eric Horsch, Christopher Smith, and Robert Unsworth, "Estimating Recreational Visitation to Federally-Managed Lands," April 25, 2017, prepared for Office of Policy Analysis, United States Department of the Interior by Industrial Economics, Incorporated.

desired carbohydrates and starches or fat and protein; some of the region's rockshelters contain the earliest evidence for sunflower and goosefoot domestication.¹⁵

Over time, the Indigenous peoples of Kentucky, while still mobile, tended to live in one place for longer periods of time and, they began experimenting with small-scale plant cultivation as part of their mobile lifestyle. Later still, these small settlements transformed into highly productive ancient farming cultures that developed over the central Kentucky uplands and Eastern Kentucky's mountain valleys around 3,000–1,000 years ago. These farming cultures practiced substantial cultivation activities that included slash-and-burn fire techniques to clear forest patches for crops, working the soil with tools, and settling into larger villages.

The archeologically known Adena-Hopewell culture proliferated in Eastern Kentucky during the Early Woodland Period (500 BCE–100 CE). During this period, the people living in the Middle Ohio Valley constructed examples of the large, intricate, earthen burial mounds now broadly associated with Hopewell culture. Central Park in Ashland (Boyd County) encompasses six identified mounds that measure approximately 20 feet in diameter and 6 feet in height.¹⁶

By the time Europeans arrived in North America, Eastern Kentucky had been the epicenter of trade in a long-distance exchange network that had existed for centuries. Archeological evidence and contemporary 18th-century documentation by European and European American colonial explorers indicate that farming communities were well established along the major drainages in Eastern Kentucky by the Historic Period and could provide produce and/or locations for trade. *Athiamiowee*—roughly translated from Shawnee as “path of the armed ones” or Warrior’s Path—connected the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico through an extensive network of trails that roughly followed the inland route formed by migrating large game. The section of the Warrior’s Path running through what would become Eastern Kentucky provided a direct connection between the Cherokee in present-day Tennessee and Georgia and the Shawnee people living along the Ohio River.

Following the arrival of European colonizers in the mid- and late 1600s, newly introduced diseases, including influenza, smallpox, and measles, decimated local Native American populations. Those who survived stayed in the Ohio Valley and created multiethnic villages or moved away from the contentious colonial American frontier. The great loss in life from European disease, as well as the conglomeration of small groups of Tribal members in newly established, multicultural communities, contributed to a generational loss of cultural practices and history that were based in oral tradition. Contemporary European American accounts from the 1730s mention Shawnee, Mingo (Seneca-Iroquois), Cherokee, and Tutelo people residing in Eastern Kentucky. *Eskippakithiki*, a Shawnee settlement in present-day southwest Clark County, was home to approximately 200 families. The palisade-surrounded

15 A. Gyyynn Henderson and David Pollack, “Chapter 17: Kentucky” in *Native America: A State-by-State Historical Encyclopedia* (ed. Daniel S. Murphree), https://heritage.ky.gov/Documents/Native_History_KyTeachers.pdf.

16 Dale Queen, “Central Park Adena Mounds,” Blog-Ashland Community and Technical College, November 22, 2021, <https://ashland.kctcs.edu/blog/posts/112221-central-park-adena-mounds.aspx>; Glenn Puit, “Insight Preview: Burial Mounds of Central Park,” *Daily Independent*, October 22, 2017, https://www.dailyindependent.com/news/insight-preview-burial-mounds-of-central-park/article_afd68ebc-b6a7-11e7-8e4d-bf7892d09468.html.

village thrived from its establishment around 1718 until it was attacked by a band of Ottawa in 1753 and abandoned.¹⁷

Native Eastern Kentuckians largely abandoned their permanent summer settlements to move north of the Ohio River to avoid English hostilities after the French and Indian War/Seven Years War of the 1750s and an increasing European presence in the Ohio River Valley. The 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix established Native American lands north of the Ohio River and English lands to the south. In 1775, when Daniel Boone followed *Athiamiowee* to clear the Wilderness Road, the Shawnee, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and other Tribes lived between the Big Sandy and Mississippi Rivers. Early European American settlers, explorers, and land speculators primarily interacted with small parties of Native Americans at winter hunting camps.

Misconceptions about Eastern Kentucky's Native people have proliferated due to cultural misunderstandings and myths perpetuated by European American settlers and early regional historians. The most prevalent myth is that Kentucky was merely a hunting ground that was not claimed by any group as their homeland or a place of permanent residence. Widely read, early Kentucky historian (and land speculator) John Filson perpetuated the myth of Kentucky as "dark and bloody ground" in his 1784 book, *The Discovery, Settlement, and present state of Kentucke*.¹⁸ Written during the contentious and violent period between the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix, Daniel Boone's 1775 expedition of the founding of Fort Boonesboro, and Kentucky's statehood in 1792, Filson's account depicted Kentucky as a place of perpetual conflict based on a quote attributed to Chickamauga Cherokee leader Dragging Canoe. During the 1775 treaty signing that transferred a large portion of present-day Kentucky from the Cherokee to the Transylvania Land Company, Dragging Canoe was reported to have said a "dark cloud" hung over the "bloody ground" of what would become Kentucky.¹⁹ While this cryptic description could have reflected how the area was highly contested for its ample game or may have been a warning about conflicts between European colonists and Native Americans to come, many European Americans chose to interpret the "bloody ground" as unclaimed, uninhabited, and prime for purchase and settlement. This myth may also feed into the lack of federal Tribal recognition of some groups located in or traditionally associated with the lands of Kentucky and the lack of Tribal land ownership in the region.

Despite this history of erasure, the following eight federally recognized Tribes have enduring connections to Eastern Kentucky:

- Absentee Shawnee Tribe
- Cherokee Nation

17 Tim Talbott, "Indian Old Fields," Kentucky History, accessed September 2023, <https://www.claycountykentucky.org/history/indians/>; "Native Americans of Clay County & Kentucky," Clay County, Kentucky, accessed September 2023, <https://www.claycountykentucky.org/history/indians/>.

18 John Filson, *The Discovery, Settlement, and Present State of Kentucke* (1784). Available online at University of Nebraska-Lincoln Digital Commons, <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=etas>.

19 A. Gwynn Henderson, "Dispelling the Myth: Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Indian Life in Kentucky," Register of the Kentucky Historical Society 90, no. 1 (1992), <http://preservationkentucky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Dispelling-the-Myth-17th-18th-Century-Indian-Life-in-KY.pdf>.

- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Osage Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma

Today, reminders of the Native Americans who traditionally lived in Eastern Kentucky remain, despite the historic myths and misrepresentations that claim otherwise. Traditional lifeways based on localism, hunting, and subsistence farming to support smaller, tight-knit communities continue to this day. The Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission was established in 1996 to recognize Native American contributions and influence on the commonwealth's history and culture. A part of the Kentucky Heritage Council, the commission promotes the accurate depiction of Kentucky's Native people, recognition for Native American's role and influence on regional heritage, and partnerships between Native peoples, agencies, and organizations throughout the state.²⁰

Corbin-based (Whitley and Knox Counties) nonprofit Southeastern Kentucky Association of Native People organizes an annual Labor Day weekend powwow that honors Native American culture through dance and drum competitions and sponsors year-round bingo events.²¹ The nonprofit also oversees the Kentucky Native American Heritage Museum, a small museum founded in 1999 and located on the only known property in the region that has been continuously owned by Native American individuals.²²

The Warrior's Path project is working to document and preserve remnants of the trail and interpret 12,000 years of history in Kentucky by recognizing the first Appalachians. The group is working with Eastern Kentucky University and local partners to identify known paths/location, capture local history and knowledge, and build archives related to the commonwealth's rich Native American history that has been forgotten or traditionally minimized.

Agriculture

The Cumberland Plateau's rugged terrain and thin soil did not support large-scale agriculture like the plantations of the Bluegrass Region and far-western portions of Kentucky. During the later 1600s, with the creation of forts and trading posts along the western Virginia plain, European Americans began to enter the area of present-day Eastern Kentucky in a westward-expanding search for and use of hunting grounds for the deerskin trade, among other resource uses. Somewhat later (1700s), with the dispossession of lands and displacement of

20 "Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission," Kentucky Heritage Council, accessed September 2023, <https://heritage.ky.gov/aa-na/Pages/na-commission.aspx>.

21 "Home," Southeastern Kentucky Association of Native People, accessed September 2023, <http://www.skamp.org/>.

22 Kenneth Phillips, "The Native American Heritage Museum," accessed September 2023, https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kycarter/the_original_peoples/Corbin_museum/Corbin_museum.htm.

Kentucky's Indigenous peoples, European American settlers began establishing land ownership for agricultural uses, though the land in Eastern Kentucky was more important for forestry, as much of the Eastern Kentucky landscape was unsuitable for large-scale farming operations.

Colonial and early American settlement was confined to the flat areas of fertile land found adjacent to the region's river and streams. Eastern Kentucky farms focused on subsistence by producing a large variety of crops and animals on a small scale to create self-sufficiency. Communities were small, loosely defined, geographically isolated, and usually based on family ties with households relying on bartered labor and locally produced goods to survive. This physical isolation nurtured self-reliance, with the typical 19th-century Eastern Kentucky homestead having few needs for goods manufactured outside their community.

Subsistence farming shifted when industrialization reached the Eastern Kentucky Coalfield in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Some Appalachians moved to newly established coal, lumber, or railroad towns alongside new arrivals to the region. Others continued to live on ancestral farmsteads but directed their labor away from small-scale farming and towards mining; this move shifted local economies away from communal bartering and local goods towards broader, manufactured products that could be purchased with miners' wages. Between 1900 and 1930, the number of farms in Eastern Kentucky counties flatlined and/or decreased in relation to the rise in coal production.

Although many Eastern Kentucky families left their farms for the mines during the first half of the 20th century and even more left the region once coal production was mechanized starting in the 1960s and declined in production over the last several decades, the region continues to embrace sustainable and subsistence farming practices. Seed collection, preservation techniques, and "farm to table" eating have their roots in the region's culture of self-sufficiency. Gardening resources, technical assistance, support from organizations and leaders, investments in community infrastructure, branding, farmers markets, farm-to-fork dining, and agricultural tourism support traditional farming and connect today's residents to the land and produce.

Today, numerous organizations and programs support this traditional approach to agriculture and relationship to the land. Grow Appalachia, one of Berea College's Strategic Initiatives,²³ focuses on food security and how to work holistically to ensure there is access to healthy foods. Grow Appalachia's garden grants, farmer development, community kitchens, and beginner farmer series support the group's vision of a vibrant, regional food system where healthy food is accessible to all. The program has reached 6,700 households, with 6.1 million pounds of organic produce grown throughout more than 60 counties in Appalachia. The program's values reflect the self-directed individualism associated with the region and focuses on celebrating the diverse community it serves while examining racial, social, systemic, and cultural inequities; overcomes challenges and follows through with resolve; and honors the dignity of all people and their communities.²⁴ The Community Farm Alliance, based in Berea (Madison County), supports leadership development and grassroots

23 "Home," *Grow Appalachia-Berea University*, accessed September 2023, <https://growappalachia.berea.edu/>.

24 "About," *Grow Appalachia- Berea University*, accessed September 2023, <https://growappalachia.berea.edu/about/>.

democratic processes to ensure family-scale agriculture is integral and Eastern Kentucky's local economies and communities. The organization supports family farms, sustainable farming practices, and policy that connects agriculture products to people instead of producing commodities for market.²⁵

State-level programs also support Eastern Kentucky agriculture and its principles of self-reliance. The Kentucky Agricultural District Program, administered by the Division of Conservation, protects agricultural land for food and fiber production and prevents its conversion to nonagricultural use. Land enrolled in the state program cannot be annexed for nonagricultural uses or condemned without mitigation, and extra consideration is given when applying for state cost shares and the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. Within the study area, 10 counties have farms enrolled in the program (Carter, Floyd, Jackson, Knox, Madison, Martin, Powell, Pulaski, Wayne, and Whitley Counties). The Appalachia Proud local agricultural marketing program is part of the official state farm marketing initiative that celebrates innovation of Appalachian farmers while honoring the region's agricultural traditions. Farms, processors, agribusinesses, and any other agriculture-related concern in the 54-county Kentucky Appalachian Regional Commission region are eligible for inclusion in the program.²⁶

Civil War and Its Aftermath

The commonwealth of Kentucky had been at the forefront of national politics in the decades leading up to the Civil War, contributing the state's greatest compromisers in attempts to avoid war between the northern and southern sections of the United States. Kentucky was a slave state of the Upper South, with a population as diverse in its backgrounds as its political leanings. It was also a geographic link between growing industrial centers in the Northeast and plantations of the Deep South. Kentucky contained the major overland transportation corridor through the Cumberland Gap developed along the route of the Warrior's Path. The state's river cities sent their commerce down the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers (respectively bordering the northern and southern portions of the state) to the Mississippi River and out to world markets. While these large rivers brought major economic viability to the state, with the advent of Civil War looming, the water courses would also prove to be sources for large-scale military operations.

During the secession crisis of 1860–1861, Kentuckians watched as their major political representatives began to lean in different directions. Kentuckians were socially and culturally divided, with the southern and western portions of the state more closely resembling the Deep South in terms of agriculture and the prevalence of slavery, while the northern and central portions of Kentucky embraced a diversified economy that aligned more with the United States and emancipation; Eastern Kentucky and the rest of the mountainous Appalachian region remained economically and culturally isolated as long as it could.²⁷ On April 12, 1861, the Civil War began in Charleston, South Carolina, with Confederate forces

25 "Mission," *Community Farm Alliance*, accessed September 2023, <https://cfaky.org/about/mission/>.

26 "Appalachian Proud: Mountain of Potential," *Kentucky Proud*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.kyproud.com/programs/appalachia-proud/>.

27 Gary Adelman, "A House Divided: Civil War Kentucky," *American Battlefield Trust*, December 21, 2021, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/house-divided-civil-war-kentucky>.

firing onto US-occupied Fort Sumter. President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 militia to quell the rebellion; this prompted four more states to leave the United States. Kentucky's governor, Beriah Magoffin, a pro-secessionist advocate, pushed for his state to follow many of others out of the United States and rejected President Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers. However, on May 16, 1861, the Kentucky legislature voted for an armed neutrality, ensuring that Kentucky would stay out of the war and prepare to defend itself from either side's actions.

"Armed neutrality" did not last long, as Governor Magoffin and Simon Bolivar Buckner organized the pro-secessionist State Guard to defend the state from northern incursions. To counter this initiative and continue the perceived neutrality, the state legislature permitted organic, pro-Federal "home guard" units to begin training at camps. In reality, these units had already been organized, and this step was a mere formality. Other homegrown militias, guerilla fighting, and raids brought the ideological division directly into mountain communities and divided family allegiances.

Kentucky counties with the most White Federal volunteers as a percentage of the 1860 population included Boyd, Lawrence, Johnson, Magoffin, Perry, Clay, Owsley, Bell, Leslie, Estill, Rockcastle, Pulaski, Harlan, Knox, Whitley, and Wayne Counties; Letcher, Morgan, and Wolfe Counties had the fewest White US volunteers as a percentage of the 1860 population.²⁸ Some Eastern Kentuckians, who saw themselves largely removed from both national and state politics, were ambivalent towards the institution of slavery, having no personal stake in it but recognizing the South's reliance on the labor of enslaved people.²⁹

Kentucky remained in the crosshairs throughout the war as a border state between both forces. The Cumberland Gap and other routes through Kentucky's Appalachian Mountains became contested territory between the neutral commonwealth and secessionist states of Tennessee and Virginia. In the fall of 1861, both Federal and Confederate forces moved into Kentucky. Confederates funneled into central Kentucky through McCormack's Gap (Menifee County) to attack a US recruitment and training camp. The Battle of Barbourville (Knox County) on September 19, 1861, was one of the earliest engagements in the Civil War. Considered the first Confederate victory in Kentucky, the skirmish between a small number of Kentucky home guard members and Southern troops commanded by Confederate States of America General Felix Zollicoffer resulted in Confederates destroying a US training camp and seizing the arms stored there.³⁰

Following the loss at Barbourville, US General William "Bull" Nelson was ordered to organize a new brigade in Maysville (Mason County) and conduct an expedition into the Big Sandy Valley Region to stop the Confederate build-up in Eastern and central Kentucky. Zollicoffer's forces continued their advance and attacked Federal troops at a base in the Wildcat Mountains near the Rockcastle River on October 21, 1861. The Battle of Camp

28 C. David Dalton, "Confederate Operations in Eastern Kentucky, 1861-1862" (1982), <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3088&context=theses>.

29 "Rural Isolated and Independent, North Carolina State University History Department, accessed September 2023, <https://cwnc.omeka.chass.ncsu.edu/exhibits/show/people-of-the-appalachian-moun/rural-isolated-people-of-appal/rural-isolated-and-independent>.

30 "National Park Service, "Battle Detail: Barbourville," The Civil War, accessed September 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battles-detail.htm?battleCode=KY001>.

Wildcat (Laurel County) became one of the first US victories in Kentucky as US troops held their position and Zollicoffer retreated down the Wilderness Road to the Cumberland Gap.³¹

After securing the communities of Hazel Green (Wolfe County) and West Liberty (Morgan County), Nelson's brigade consolidated at Salyersville (Magoffin County) and set out to break up a Confederate recruiting camp that developed in Prestonburg (Floyd County). The Federal and Confederate forces met northeast of Pikeville at the Battle of Ivy Mountain on November 8, 1861. While the fighting did not end in an overwhelming US victory, Nelson's troops successfully pushed Confederate troops out of Kentucky for the moment.

The Confederate withdrawal from Pikeville on November 9, 1861, allowed US forces to consolidate power in Eastern Kentucky. This did not deter pro-Confederate members of the Kentucky legislature who organized their own government based out of Bowling Green in December 1861.²² That same month, CSA General Zollicoffer moved into central Kentucky, setting up a winter encampment at Mill Springs and Beech Grove on the southern and northern parts of the Cumberland River, respectively (Pulaski, Wayne Counties).

Federal forces again targeted Confederate recruitment in Kentucky in early 1862. On January 10, 1862, US troops under colonel and future president James A. Garfield marched on CSA Colonel John S. William's headquarters in Paintsville and Prestonburg (Floyd County), forcing the Confederate retreat in the Battle of Middle Creek. Nine days later, on January 19, Federal forces were attacked by large Confederate force under the direct command of General Felix Zollicoffer near Logan's Crossroads, 10 miles west of Somerset (Pulaski County). The Battle of Mill Springs (Pulaski County) was a resounding US victory that left Zollicoffer dead and his troops completely routed and demoralized, retreating into Tennessee. With losses at Middle Creek and Mill Springs in Eastern Kentucky, along with the February defeats at Forts Henry and Donelson on the western border of Kentucky and Tennessee, Kentucky's Confederate provisional government retreated to Tennessee.

As the war dragged on, Confederate forces looked to retake control of the commonwealth during the Heartland Offensive, also referred to as the Kentucky Campaign. The Battle of Richmond (Madison County), fought August 29–30, 1862, was one of most complete Confederate victories of the Civil War and led to Confederate capture of Frankfort on September 2, 1862. Frankfort was the only US state capital to fall to the Confederacy during the war and was held for a month until Federal forces advanced from Louisville on October 4, 1862, and forced a Confederate retreat. The Battle of Perryville (Boyle County), the largest and last major battle in Kentucky, was fought October 8, 1862. Considered by some to be the Confederate high-water mark of the Western Theater because it was the most northerly battle in the West and because it was a tactical victory for the Confederacy, Perryville ended the Confederate offensive into Kentucky, gave the United States a strategic victory, and pushed Confederate General Braxton Bragg's forces through the Cumberland Gap and into Tennessee. The United States would control Kentucky for the remainder of the war.

31 "Camp Wildcat," American Battlefield Trust, accessed September 2023, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/camp-wildcat>.

While eastern Kentucky was spared from official battles during the later years of the war, the region was shattered by conflict. Confederate raids in March and April 1863 destroyed over 40 farms in Breathitt, Wolfe, and Owsley Counties. Six hundred (600) Confederate cavalry marched down the Big Sandy to Paintsville in April 1864 and engaged with 500 home guards. Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan traveled through Pound Gap (Letcher County) and down Troublesome Creek in June 1864 to raid Mount Sterling, Kentucky. After the Battle of Cynthiana on June 12, 1864, Morgan and his men again passed through Prestonburg (Floyd County) during his return to Virginia.³²

Today, multiple organizations and initiatives interpret the Civil War in Eastern Kentucky. During the 1990s, the Kentucky Heritage Council commission conducted a statewide survey to identify Civil War battlefields to support the efforts of the national Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and local preservation organizations that worked to protect and interpret Civil War sites. Of the 11 principal battlefields in Kentucky, half are in the study area (Barbourville, Camp Wildcat, Ivy Mountain, Middle Creek, Mill Springs, and Richmond).³³ A portion of Camp Wildcat is protected as an archeological site in Daniel Boone National Forest.³⁴ Mountain Homeplace in Paintsville Lake State Park is a living history site interpreting Johnson County history from 1850 to 1875. The outdoor museum includes five buildings that were relocated in the 1980s to prevent them from being submerged in Paintsville Lake. The national register-listed Samuel May House in North Prestonburg (Floyd County) was the boyhood home of Andrew Jackson May, the leading Confederate organizer in Eastern Kentucky. The May family's 300-acre farm was the site of largest Confederate recruitment camp in region.³⁵ Middle Creek National Battlefield Foundation has developed interpretive signage at the National Historic Landmark. Visitors can learn about the Civil War conflict in Eastern Kentucky at a central information station and walk the Confederate Loop Trail and the Union Loop Trail.³⁶ Congress established Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument in 2020, and Cumberland Gap National Historical Park includes the remains of earthwork fortifications used by both the United States and Confederacy.³⁷

Impacts of the Civil War throughout Appalachia lasted long after the Confederacy's surrender. Years of war created disruptions to social and political life, as well as the aftershocks to the local and national economy. Troop movements across the region destroyed communities, farmland, and the limited infrastructure built before the war. The rise of extractive industries and competition for natural resources that accompanied the rapid industrialization of Eastern Kentucky following the war increased emphasis on private land ownership and exclusive use in Appalachia. These political, social, economic, and

32 "Eastern Kentucky's Civil War Battles and Skirmishes, 1863-1864," *The Historical Marker Database*, March 29, 2021, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=69145>.

33 [Civil War Sites Preservation - Kentucky Heritage Council](#)

34 US Forest Service, "Camp Wildcat Battlefield," *Daniel Boone National Forest*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/dbnf/recarea/?recid=84079>.

35 Stephanie Lang, "The Samuel May House," *Kentucky Historical Society*, accessed September 2023, <https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/201>.

36 "Preservation," *Middle Creek National Battlefield*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.middlecreek.org/preservation/>.

37 [Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument \(US National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#); [Civil War at Cumberland Gap - Cumberland Gap National Historical Park \(US National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

cultural shifts during the decades between the war and the turn of the 20th century whipped local rivalries and hostilities into violent family feuds sometimes lasting generations.

Political and economic power were major factors in Rowan, Harlan, Clay, and Breathitt County feuds.³⁸ In Clay County, the feud between the equally prominent White and Garrand families started in the 1840s and grew to involve members of four local families by the early 1900s. The “Rowan County War” (1884–1887) between the Martin and Tolliver families was fueled by the illegal whiskey production in Rowan County. The extremely violent feud led the Kentucky governor to deploy the state militia three times to quell hostilities and over 400 of Morehead’s 700 residents to leave over the course of the interfamily conflict. In Harlan County, the feud between the Turners and Howards was reported to have started over a poker game, but fighting over control of the local whiskey trade and economic competition continued for years (1887–1891). The French-Eversole feud in Perry County (1887–1894) pitted local Joe Eversole against Fulton French, a new arrival who represented outside land companies that could afford to bankroll a hired assassin to remove local opposition.

The most famous of the feuds pitted the Hatfields of Logan County, West Virginia, against the McCoys of Pike County, Kentucky. Over the course of almost 30 years (1863–1891), numerous reports on the violence ran in national newspapers and magazines, contributing to the lawless reputations of the Hatfields, the McCoys, and the region as a whole. Ten sites in Pike County are included in the Hatfield-McCoy Feud Historic District that was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, and the Pike County Tourism Bureau promotes a self-guided driving tour that snakes between Kentucky and West Virginia.

Financial rivalries, loyalty to family and friends, and individuals’ sense of pride likely contributed to the feuding that popular culture still associates with Eastern Kentucky, but broad social changes that signaled major shift in life in Eastern Kentucky stoked the flames. A national environment of postwar violence, the establishment of industrial colonialism of timber and mining companies, and the increasing development and connectivity of Appalachia and its attitudes of isolation, privacy, and self-dependence added to the unrest of the period. Contemporary articles in national publications, such as *New York Times* coverage, supported Appalachian stereotypes of violent mountain men who resorted to murder to protect their honor and their kin.

Extractive Industry

Eastern Kentucky sits on the edge of the Cumberland Plateau, an area rich in mineral resources with a long history of extraction. Colonial settlers found salt, iron ore, oil, tar, and saltpeter and were quick to process these natural resources. Constructed in 1791—only 17 years after the first European settlement and a year before Kentucky was granted statehood—Bourbon Ironworks (Bath County) was the first industrial iron-producing complex in Kentucky. A mixture of iron ore, limestone, and charcoal had to be sourced locally and fed into the furnace to extract pure iron ore for household products, construction materials,

³⁸ John Ed Pearce, *Days of Darkness: The Feuds of Eastern Kentucky* (1994).

industrial parts, and ammunitions for the War of 1812 once Americans boycotted British goods.³⁹

During the 1830s, Kentucky was the third largest iron producer in the United States.⁴⁰ Kentucky was also the most important domestic supplier of saltpeter, an important component in gunpowder, leading up to the War of 1812. During this period, the two biggest saltpeter producers were Mammoth Cave in central Kentucky and the Great Saltpetre Cave in present-day Rockcastle County.⁴¹ During his short 1750 expedition into what would become the state of Kentucky, Dr. Thomas Walker was the first person to document his discovery and use of coal in the region. Soon after, the first coal production was reported near Beattyville in present-day Lee County, and surveyor Lewis Evan's seminal 1755 map of the Middle British Colonies showed coal in what is now Boyd County.

Coal proved to be a more profitable venture than saltpeter as the 19th century progressed. The first recorded commercial coal production in Kentucky began in what would become Lee County in 1790, two years before Kentucky became a state. Iron furnaces in Owensville (Bath County) also used locally sourced coal for implements and utensils at the turn of the 19th century. The eastern part of the state became a major coal producer, recording over 100 tons for the first time in 1800. The Eastern Kentucky coal mines hit the 1,000-ton milestone in 1813. However, wood remained the fuel of choice for Kentuckians in the early 1800s. The 1825 discovery of coal in the far-western portion of Kentucky, the relative ease in which it could be mined, and the region's proximity to major waterways allowed the western coalfield to become the major coal region of the state during the early 19th century. Eastern Kentucky coal mines in Greenup, McCreary, Clay, Breathitt, Morgan, and Lawrence Counties still supplied fuel to Cincinnati and other markets via barges traveling the Big Sandy, Cumberland, and Ohio Rivers throughout the 1820s and 1830s.

The Civil War disrupted coal mining operations across the state during the 1860s, but the 1870s brought increased demand spurred by railroad and industrialization. Coal was used to power steam locomotives, as well as the iron and steel mills supplying the growing railroads. The expansion of railroads into the western coalfield and the introduction of the steam-powered shovel allowed Kentucky to produce over 1 million tons of coal in a single year for the first time in 1879. Speculators hoping for similar growth in the eastern coalfield poured into the area to purchase mineral rights, and investors weighed the profitability of extending rail lines across the mountainous terrain against the richness of the Eastern Kentucky Coalfield. In the 1880s, the Louisville & Nashville Railway extended through Rockcastle, Laurel, Whitley, Knox, and Bell Counties, and the Cincinnati Southern line ran a line through McCreary County, which linked Sterns Coal Company to Jellico, Tennessee, by 1890. Bituminous coal became the primary fuel powering the growing industrial centers west of the Appalachian Mountains, including Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Cincinnati,

39 Mathew Davidson, "Iron Furnaces of Kentucky," 30 Days of Kentucky Archaeology, September 17, 2017,

<https://30daysofkentuckyarchaeology.wordpress.com/2017/09/17/iron-furnaces-of-kentucky/>.

40 US Forest Service, "Fitchburg Furnace Interpretive Site," Daniel Boone National Forest, access September 2023,

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/dbnf/recarea/?recid=64853>.

41 Gary A. O'Dell, "Saltpeter Manufacturing and Marketing and Its Relation to the Gunpower Industry in Kentucky During the Nineteenth Century," 1996, https://www.rkci.org/library/odell_ky_saltpeter_1996.pdf.

industrialization that resulted in the United States having the highest economic growth rate in the world.

Following the Civil War, northern industrialists saw Eastern Kentucky's rich natural and mineral resources as fuel for Midwest and Northern manufacturing and construction boom.⁴² Kentucky's logging industry peaked in 1907, with almost 1 billion board feet of lumber produced and sent downstream to be processed in Louisville, Nashville, Frankfort, Cincinnati sawmills. Lumber from eastern Kentucky was also used for charcoal (iron industry), railroad cross-ties, bridges, and railcars.

Julius S. Stearns of Ludington, Michigan, was one of the midwestern timber barons who capitalized on the expansive forests of the Cumberland Plateau. Stearns purchased 30,000 acres of Eastern Kentucky timberland in 1902. When coal was discovered on the property, Stearns established the Stearns Coal & Lumber Company, which expanded to include 18 coal and lumber camps over 200 square miles of land and employed more than 2,200 people. The company houses in the town of Stearns, Kentucky, (McCreary County) included water, sewage, electricity, and steam heat; community facilities included a golf course, tennis courts, pool hall, and baseball field.⁴³ Stearns also constructed the Kentucky & Tennessee Railway, a short line route that ran 25 miles to move workers, coals, and lumber between the company's established camps.⁴⁴

Increasing investments from Eastern and midwestern corporations in newly established mines in Pike, Letcher, and Harlan Counties led Eastern Kentucky to produce more than 6.9 million tons of coal in 1911 and regain its title as the state's leading coalfield. During the 1910s, Harlan, Pike Letcher, Perry, and Floyd Counties were consistently the state's top coal producers. By the end of 1911, L&N Railroad extended the spur line from Pineville to Bentham, and the first cars of coal shipped directly to Chicago on September 1, 1911. Increased demand for coal during World War I led the Commonwealth of Kentucky to produce 20.3 million tons and, by 1917, the Eastern Kentucky coalfield produced twice as much as the western coalfield. Natural gas extraction in the Eastern Kentucky emerged as an additional fuel supply. Development of the natural gas field along the Big Sandy River for electricity generation began in the 1920s in western Floyd County, Kentucky, and continued throughout the 20th century.

During the first decades of the 20th century, the population skyrocketed in the Eastern Kentucky counties with the most mining activity; Floyd and Pike Counties' populations doubled between 1900 and 1920, and Perry and Letcher Counties increased their population 2.5 times between 1910 and 1920. Kentucky was among the leaders of coal camps, company-constructed towns for workers that ranged from communities of over 1,000 miners created

42 Robert F. Collins, "Chapter 24: Early Forests and Forest Industry in Eastern Kentucky" in *A History of the Daniel Boone National Forest* (Washington, DC: Department of Agriculture, 1975), <http://npshistory.com/publications/usfs/region/8/daniel-boone/history/chap24.htm>.

43 Robert M. Polsgrove, "Stearns Administrative and Commercial District" National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Washington, DC: Department of Interior, 1998), <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/e965a168-35d9-4fe3-836e-efce98201452/>.

44 "History," Big South Fork Scenic Railway, accessed August 2023, <https://bsfsry.com/our-story/>.

by large corporations to small, family-owned camps.⁴⁵ The increased need for labor attracted upland farmers, European immigrants, and African Americans alike, who would have lived in coal camp housing segregated by race, ethnicity, and employment status. Lynch (Harlan County), described as the largest coal camp in the world, was established in 1917 by US Coal and Coke Company, a subsidiary of US Steel. By January 1918, US Coal and Coke employed 1,500 men at the Harlan County mine and shipped 12,000 tons of coal to US Steel mills in Gary, Indiana. These communities also featured simple, almost identical architecture. Box framing—exterior board and batten attached to a simple post and beam box—were typical coal and lumber town construction, although relatively few survived due to the construction method's weakness and the ease in which it could be dismantled and moved. Many company-owned towns lacked the infrastructure found in contemporary urban areas, but some included municipal buildings. The town of Benham (Harlan County), established in 1911 by Wisconsin Steel Company—a subsidiary of International Harvester—included a theater, commissary, post office, hospital, meat market, city hall, fire house, church, grade school, and park.

As larger expanses of Kentucky were settled, resource use and extraction supported greater extensions of American economy outside of Kentucky. Coal mining prospered through the first few decades of the 20th century. Demand from the railroads and steel mills were primarily fueled by Appalachian coal, as their products went towards steel-framed skyscrapers, World War I warships, and automobile manufacturing.⁴⁶ In 1925, Harlan County produced 11.8 million tons, becoming the first Kentucky county to produce over 10 million tons in a single year. In 1927, the first year that employment numbers were collected, the Commonwealth of Kentucky reported 64,969 miners.⁴⁷

By 1910, nonresidents owned the majority of the land in the Cumberland Plateau; nonresidents also owned about 75% of timber rights and 85% of the region's mineral rights.⁴⁸ Large corporations acquired mineral rights through broad form deeds at absurdly low prices and funneled the profits from Appalachia's natural and mineral resources away from local residents and communities. The extraction of forestry products in the first decades of the 20th century as lumber for housing, railroad ties, telegraph poles, and shipping vessels was even more severe, with an estimated 99% of Kentucky's forest removed by 1930.

Eastern Kentucky mines struggled through the Great Depression. Local communities did not recover until the economic boom accompanying World War II. Appalachian coal helped meet the increasing electricity demands following the war and coincided with the postwar expansion of surface mining into Eastern Kentucky. In 1970, Kentucky was the lead coal producer in the country, and the broader Appalachian region supplied more than 70% of US

45 James B. Goode, "Introduction to Coal Camp Database," Kentucky Coal Education, 1996, http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/coaltowns/introduction_to_coal_camp.htm; L. Martin Perry, "Coal Company Towns in Eastern Kentucky, 1854-1941," Kentucky Coal Education, 1996, <http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/coaltowns/home.htm>; "Bibliography," Kentucky Coal Education, 1996, <http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/coaltowns/bibliography.htm>.

46 Carl Zipper, Mary Beth Adams, and Jeff Skousen, "The Appalachian Coalfield in Historic Context," 2021, https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2021/nrs_2021_zipper_001.pdf.

47 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, Department for Energy Development and Independence, "Kentucky Coal Facts," 2017, [https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Coal%20Facts%20%20Annual%20Editions/Kentucky%20Coal%20Facts%20-%2017th%20Edition%20\(2017\).pdf](https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Coal%20Facts%20%20Annual%20Editions/Kentucky%20Coal%20Facts%20-%2017th%20Edition%20(2017).pdf).

48 "A Short History of Kentucky/Central Appalachia," *Frontline*, January 6, 2006, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/countryboys/readings/appalachia.html>.

coal throughout that decade. Kentucky's natural gas production also expanded to support fuel needs during the energy crises that plagued the 1970s. By that time, operations at the Big Sandy natural gas field had grown to include most of Letcher, Knott, Floyd, Martin, and Pike Counties and part of West Virginia.⁴⁹ Coal mining employees and labor fell drastically in the postwar decades due to the same automation and mechanization that increased mine productivity.⁵⁰

The rise of cheap coal from the western United States brought about a decades-long decline in eastern coal that was felt sharply across the Cumberland Plateau. The 1970 Clean Air Act imposed restrictions on sulfur emissions for coal-fired power plants, which favored the low-sulfur coal coming primarily from Wyoming instead of the coal with higher sulfur content being produced from Eastern Kentucky mines. Deregulated railroad rates allowed coal from the western United States to become more accessible and begin to displace more costly eastern-mined coal as the country shifted from regional production models to a nationwide approach.⁵¹ In 1988, Wyoming replaced Kentucky as the country's leading coal producer, even though Kentucky's coal mines continued to break production records. In 1990, 131 million tons of coal were mined in Eastern Kentucky and the commonwealth's production peaked at 173 million tons for the year. In 1996, Pike County produced 36 million tons of coal, more than any county in Kentucky's history.

The decline in coal production documented in Kentucky since 1990 has been concentrated in the eastern coalfield. Bolstered by low rail freight costs and the easily accessible coal seams in the Rockies and Powder River Basin, the percentage the nation's coal supplied by western states soared from under 20% in 1988 to 36% in 1997.⁵²

The rise of natural gas production nationwide in the 2010s due to advances in hydrologic fracking techniques has also impacted production levels and coal-powered plants in the commonwealth. During the early 2010s, almost all of coal mined in Kentucky went towards coal-fired power plants, but closures of legacy coal-fired units or their conversion to natural gas decreased demand and the use of Eastern Kentucky coal. Historically, more than 90% of Kentucky's electricity was provided by coal-powered plants; in 2021, energy from coal-fired plants supplied about 71% of Kentucky's electricity, and natural gas-fired plants generated about 21% of the state's electricity, which was double the 2016 figures.⁵³

The legacy of extractive industries looms large in the region and continues to influence the landscape, forests, water, and people. An estimated 2.5 million acres, approximately 6.5% of the Appalachian coalfield, have been disturbed by surface mining since the 1970s. These areas are vulnerable to invasive species of vegetation, and nonnative wildlife communities

49 Kemper, J.R. Kemper, T.W. Frankie, R.A. Smath, J.R. Moody, I.M. Johnson & R.R. Elkins, "History of Gas Production from Devonian Shale in Eastern Kentucky." Conference: AAPG Eastern Section Meeting, September 13-15, 1988, <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/5790796>.

50 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, Department for Energy Development and Independence, "Kentucky Coal Facts," 2017, [https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Coal%20Facts%20%20Annual%20Editions/Kentucky%20Coal%20Facts%20-%2017th%20Edition%20\(2017\).pdf](https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Coal%20Facts%20%20Annual%20Editions/Kentucky%20Coal%20Facts%20-%2017th%20Edition%20(2017).pdf)

51 Charles D. Kolstad, "What is Killing the US Coal Industry?" *Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research*, March 2017, <https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/what-killing-us-coal-industry>.

52 Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, "The Economics of Coal in Kentucky: Current Impacts and Future Prospects," June 25, 2009, https://archive.kftc.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/economics_of_coal_maced.pdf.

53 US Energy Information Administration, Kentucky State Profile and Energy Estimates, accessed September 2023, <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=KY>.

and have limited agricultural or restoration potential.⁵⁴ The physical changes to landscapes that come from mountain top removal and strip mining are now being connected to the impacts of climate change in the region and the recent and more-frequent major flooding events that have taken lives, destroyed homes and businesses, and challenged communities to recover.⁵⁵ Questions of environmental justice related to water contaminants and pollutants introduced through mining remain, as well as the health impacts from over a century of commercial coal mining. The loss of human life from mining accidents and the legacy health impacts, including black lung disease and other pulmonary issues, has impacted generations of Eastern Kentucky coal miners. The region has also struggled to find economic opportunities to replace coal mining. The top coal producing counties have some of the highest poverty rates in the Appalachian region and the United States as a whole.

Regardless of its impacts, coal continues to be a significant economic player in Eastern Kentucky and an important part of the culture and regional identity. Mining employment makes up only 1% of total nonfarm employment in the Commonwealth, but it is still a significant industry in the eastern coalfield and employs a few thousand workers. The 10 Kentucky counties with the highest shares of employment from coal are all in the study area; 8 of those (Bell, Harlan, Letcher, Leslie, Perry, Pike, Martin, Knott Counties) reported over 10% of their employed population working in the coal industry in 2006. Mining's economic impact exceeds its employment impact in these 10 counties as well. For example, in 2006, 23% of Knott County workers were employed in the coal industry, but mining wages accounted for 60% of total wages in the county.⁵⁶ The wealth of nearby coal made Kentucky's electricity rates some of the lowest in the nation and attracted intensive industries like automotive manufacturing into the Eastern Kentucky region. However, the industry faces an uncertain future as production levels continue to fluctuate and employment numbers decline.

Regardless of the decline in coal production and the drop in population that often followed, communities created around the mines continued. While most of the community buildings constructed by Consolidation Coal Company in Van Lear (Johnson County) were torn down when the company divested in area mines during the 1940s, many residents purchased their company-owned houses. In the 1950s, US Steel sold the Lynch buildings to residents, and the town officially incorporated in 1963. The citizens of David (Floyd County), a coal town created by the Princess Elkhorn Coal company in 1941, banded together as the David Community Development Corporation to purchase the town from private investors in 1975 and fund new water and sewer systems.⁵⁷ State legislation passed in 2022 has allowed some small, formally incorporated coal towns to easily dissolve and revert government responsibilities to their respective counties as a way to better support public services in communities financially struggling. The town of Blackey (Letcher County) predated the 1917 establishment of the Blackey Coal Company, but the municipality dissolved after the closure

54 Carl E. Zipper, Mary Beth Adams, and Jeff Skousen, "The Appalachian Coalfield in Historical Context," 2021, https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2021/nrs_2021_zipper_001.pdf.

55 Carter Sickles, "The Historic Kentucky Floods Were a Waking Nightmare," Outside, October 14, 2022, <https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/environment/eastern-kentucky-flooding/>.

56 Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, "The Economics of Coal in Kentucky: Current Impacts and Future Prospects," June 25, 2009, https://archive.kftc.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/economics_of_coal_maced.pdf.

57 "David, Kentucky," Kentucky Atlas & Gazetteer, accessed September 2023, <https://www.kyatlas.com/ky-david.html#:~:text=The%20town%20was%20created%20by,The%20mine%20closed%20circa%201968.>

of the mine in the 1960s. Although activists reincorporated the town of Blackey in the 1990s, it was again dissolved in 2022. While Blackey and other former towns are no longer political entities, community centers and local events ensure that the residents of unincorporated communities keep the history of these places alive.⁵⁸

Some mining operations and company towns have turned towards heritage tourism. The Big South Fork Scenic Railway provides guests with a leisurely way to experience miles of the historic route and time in the restored 1910 coal mining camp of Barthell. The revenue supports McCreary County Historical Society, the nonprofit managing the recreational railroad and local historical society. The Kentucky Coal Museum in Benham (Harlan County) provides visitors four levels of exhibits and interprets the life of a coal miner and their family, as well as a mock coal mine, examples of coal camp community buildings, and a large collection of mining memorabilia. Established in 1993, the museum is located in the largest structure in Benham, the 1923 camp commissary building. The building is part of the downtown Benham walking tour and is part of the National Register of Historic Places Benham Historic District. Portal 31 in Lynch (Harlan County) operates as Kentucky's first exhibition coal mine. The historic site has been rehabilitated to provide visitors underground tours of the US Coal & Coke Company mine established in 1917.

Activism and Education

Settlement Schools, started at the turn of the 20th century, combined the educational ideals of progressivism with the settlement work pioneered in urban areas and industrial schools of the American South to “educate the whole child.” These rural schools were primarily founded by “fetched-on” young women who were “fetched” from colleges in Lexington or the Northeast to teach in the most remote corners of Appalachia. May Stone and Katherine Petit established the Hindman Settlement School in 1902. Considered the first of the Kentucky settlement schools, Hindman Settlement School aspired to provide formal education opportunities and cultural exploration in Knott County. Petit went on to found Pine Mountain Settlement School in 1913 to bring the settlement model to the more isolated communities of Harlan County. Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd (1876–1962), a Massachusetts-born social activist, arrived in Knott County in 1915 and immediately saw opportunities for regional uplift through education. In 1916, Lloyd opened Caney Creek School near Ivis, Kentucky (Knott County). Caney Junior College, established in 1923 in Pippa Passes (Knott County) to expand Lloyd's vision into post-secondary education, was renamed Alice Lloyd College upon her death in 1962.⁵⁹

While critics are quick to accuse the founders and supporters of these schools of forcing outside ideals onto the people of eastern Kentucky, some of the settlement schools established in Harlan, Knott, Bell, and Letcher Counties continue to offer community programs and educational opportunities led by locals.⁶⁰ The Hindman Settlement School's

58 Katie Myers, “A storied Kentucky coal town ‘dissolves’ to save itself, others across the commonwealth may follow,” Northern Kentucky Tribune, July 31, 2022, <https://nkytribune.com/2022/07/a-storied-kentucky-coal-town-dissolves-to-save-itself-others-across-the-commonwealth-may-follow/>.

59 P. David Searles, *A College for Appalachia: Alice Lloyd on Caney Creek* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995), <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/232565167.pdf>.

60. “Settlement Schools of Appalachia,” *KET*, <https://education.ket.org/resources/settlement-schools-appalachia/>.

dyslexia program has provided highly trained interventionists and specialized support services for more than 40 years. The school also provides support for local foodways and mountain agriculture, folk arts and music, and local writers whose works illustrate the connection between self and place. Pine Mountain Settlement School continues to offer environmental education, community development and agricultural stewardship programming as a community nonprofit that looks to traditional folkways to create innovated solutions to Appalachia's challenges.⁶¹

Progressives also promoted public health initiatives in Eastern Kentucky. Mary Breckinridge was born in Memphis, Tennessee, into a politically prominent family in 1881. After losing two children and the dissolution of her second marriage, Breckinridge decided to become a nurse. After training in New York and London and time in post-World War I Europe, she became a certified midwife. During her midwife training, Breckinridge was impressed by the health services available in remote Scottish communities and was inspired to offer the same level of care in rural America. In 1925, Breckinridge started the Frontier Nursing Service in Leslie County, saying that the remote communities in the Kentucky mountains were the ideal site for her organization because if the service could succeed in those conditions, the approach could succeed anywhere in the country.⁶² Breckinridge constructed Wendover, which opened its doors in early 1926, as the organization's administrative headquarters and cottage hospital. Between 1927 and 1930, six additional outpost nursing centers were constructed across Leslie and Clay Counties. In 1939, Frontier Nursing Service began the Frontier Graduate School of Midwifery, the first midwifery nursing school in the United States. In 1928, the service opened Hyden Hospital and Health Center and relocated its medical headquarters to the new facility while the administration office stayed at Wendover. The school became the first graduate school of nurse-midwifery to offer distance education in 1989–1990; the school was renamed Frontier Nursing University in 2011 to highlight the graduate-level program offered by the school.

The power of mining interests grew during the early decades of the 20th century and was countered by community activism and groups advocating workers' rights. The Harlan County Wars started in 1931 when the County Coal Operators Association cut wages by 10%. Unrest marked by skirmishes, executions, bombings, and strikes spanned the 1930s. Harlan County was the setting for another strike in 1973–1974, when Duke Power Company and United Mine Workers of American were at odds over contract negotiations. Strikes and the push for adequate pay continues today and was evident when former workers organized a summer 2019 protest for back wages when a Harlan County mine owned by Blackjewel declared bankruptcy.⁶³

During the 1960s, national attention on poverty in Appalachia and Appalachian Regional Commission federal programs started under President Johnson's "War on Poverty" and sparked a new generation of social, political, and community activists in Eastern Kentucky

61 "What We Do," Pine Mountain Settlement School, accessed September 2023, <https://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/what-we-do/>.

62 Page Putnam Miller, "Wendover" National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Washington DC: Department of Interior, 1989), https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NRHP/75000792_text.

63 "Kentucky Coal Miner on Why He Decided to Start a Protest Against Blackjewel," NPR, August 8, 2019, <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/08/749500865/kentucky-coal-miner-on-why-he-decided-to-start-a-protest-against-blackjewel>.

that focused on economic justice, ecology and environmental justice, and community empowerment. Appalachia Volunteers was a federally funded group that relied on student volunteers from area schools to work alongside local residents for social change. By the summer of 1964, Appalachia Volunteers reported that members were in approximately 40 Eastern Kentucky communities. In 1966, the organization shifted towards school reform, welfare rights, and opposition to strip mining. Appalachia Volunteers advocated for broad social and structural change in the region and political organization to combat corruption and disenfranchisement until its dissolution in 1970.⁶⁴

Eula Hall, an Appalachian advocate and public health pioneer who called herself a “hillbilly activist,” pushed for access to healthcare, clean drinking water, and attention to black lung disease after seeing how the lack of simple lifesaving care affected her family and neighbors in Floyd and Pike Counties.⁶⁵ In 1973, Hall started the Mud Creek Clinic in the small community of Grethel (Floyd County) with a \$1,400 donation and two volunteer doctors. In 1977, the clinic, which was one of the first free community health centers in Appalachia, joined with the nonprofit Big Sandy Health Care to expand its reach. Today, the Big Sandy health network serves five southeastern Kentucky counties, and the Grethel clinic—renamed as the Eula Hall Health Center—provides primary care, behavioral health care, dental, optometry, and telemedicine psychiatric care to all, including those who may be low-income or uninsured. The holistic health care approach emphasizes the importance of understanding the culture and conveying a healthy-living agenda throughout the community through preventative medicine.⁶⁶

Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky (AppalReD) provides free legal services to low-income and vulnerable residents in eastern and south-central Kentucky. Started in 1970 with offices in Prestonsburg, Barbourville, and on the Lexington campus of the University of Kentucky, the organization now serves a 37-county area and represents individuals affected by environmental and coal mine-related issues, as well as socioeconomic challenges faced by those in the region.⁶⁷

The Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition started in 1981 in response to the Appalachian Land Ownership Study that documented the extent to which out-of-state holding companies owned mineral-rich land and how little they paid in taxes to support Eastern Kentucky counties and schools. Now called Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, the grassroots organization continues to push for clean water and air, social services, racial and economic

64 Thomas J. Kiffmeyer, “From Self-Help to Sedition: The Appalachian Volunteers in Eastern Kentucky, 1964-1970,” *The Journal of Southern History*, 64, no. 1 (Feb. 1998), 65-94, https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2588073.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A999effc99da7a914b5894ac16bdb72c1b&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&origin=&initiator=&acceptTC=1.

65 Jack Beckford, “SHC in Mud Creek, Kentucky,” Student Health Coalition, accessed September 2023, <https://studenthealthcoalition.org/stories/shc-in-mud-creek-kentucky/>.

66 Taylor Sisk, “Eula Hall’s Med Creek Clinic: Kentucky’s ‘People that Help People,’” *Daily Yonder*, May 26, 2019, <https://dailyyonder.com/eula-halls-mud-creek-clinic-kentuckys-people-that-help-people/2019/05/26/>; “Honoring’s Eula Hall’s Legacy as an Appalachian Activist and Healthcare Pioneer,” UK College of Medicine, May 13, 2021, <https://medicine.uky.edu/news/honoring-eula-halls-legacy-appalachian-activist-2021-05-13t12-28-14>.

67 “Our History,” AppalReD Legal Aid, accessed September 2023, <https://www.ardfky.org/node/7/our-history>; John Rosenberg, “Reflections on bringing Justice to the Citizens of Appalachia,” https://www.ardfky.org/sites/ardfky.org/files/Reflections%20on%20bringing%20Justice%20to%20the%20Citizens%20of%20Appalachia%20by%20John%20Rosenberg_0.pdf/.

justice, voting rights, and shifting the local economy away from extractive industries.⁶⁸ Other organizations and grassroots groups in the region continue to campaign for disability rights, representation, cross-cultural dialogue, sustainable stewardship, and equitable justice.

Education and advancing the study, understanding, and advocacy of Appalachian culture continues throughout the region today. Appalachian studies emerged as an academic field of study in the 1970s as a counter to the stereotypes assigned to the residents of Appalachia. Appalachian studies programs at Berea College's Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, Eastern Kentucky University Center for Appalachian studies, Morehead State University Appalachian Heritage Program and Center for Regional Engagement, and University of Kentucky's Appalachian Center support interdisciplinary study of the changing perspective of Appalachia, community education, and involvement in eastern Kentucky.

Numerous programs also help develop the next generation of eastern Kentucky community leaders. The Brushy Fork Institute, one of Berea College's Strategic Initiatives, offers leadership summits, community leadership programs, and other custom-designed services to create and establish local leaders who have the tools to effectively lead the development of Appalachian communities.⁶⁹ Alice Lloyd College's Appalachian Entrepreneurial Development Program works to provide current and future entrepreneurs training, business model generation, business plan consultation, small business coaching, and training and workshops. Eighty-three percent (83%) of program graduates work in the Appalachian region and almost immediately contribute to the local economy.⁷⁰ Beyond academia and traditional philanthropic organizations, the area has scores of homegrown entrepreneurs and locally raised activists who understand the region and its people, are invested in community and its understanding of dignity, and are working towards a brighter tomorrow in Central Appalachia.

Music Traditions

Music has long been associated with Appalachia as a whole, with traditional country music and bluegrass that express local pride and religious influences. Appalachian mountain music has its roots in ballads and reels of the British Isles, African music, and blues developed by African Americans. Storytelling narratives, syncopation, and call-and-response accompanied by fiddle, banjo, dulcimer, and other folk instruments were common in parlors, on front porches, and at community gatherings for centuries.

The Appalachian Mountain dulcimer is considered an American folk instrument developed in the mountains during the late 1700s or early 1800s.⁷¹ Based on the German zither introduced to the Pennsylvania hills by Swiss and Germany immigrants, the Appalachian dulcimer is a fretted string instrument that first gained popularity as a parlor instrument played during small gatherings in homes. James Edward "Uncle Ed" Thomas (1850–1933) is

68 "Our History," Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, accessed September 2023, <https://archive.kftc.org/about-us/our-history>.

69 "Strategic Initiatives," Berea College, accessed September 2023, <https://www.berea.edu/strategic-initiatives>.

70 "Alice Lloyd Appalachian Entrepreneurial Development Program," Alice Lloyd College, accessed September 2023, <https://www.alc.edu/academics/business-and-entrepreneurship/alice-lloyd-college-appalachian-entrepreneurial-development-program/>.

71 Ron Gibson, "A Brief History of the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer," Ron Gibson Mountain Dulcimers, accessed September 2023, https://gibsondulcimers.com/dulcimer_history.html; "A History of the Appalachian Dulcimer," Appalachian Strings, accessed September 2023, <https://www.appalachianstrings.net/a-history-of-the-appalachian-dulcimer/>.

considered the father of the modern mountain dulcimer and popularized the long and narrow hourglass-shape dulcimer crafted from thinner wood and inverted Dutch heart sound holes. These innovations, associated with the “Hindman dulcimer” or “Kentucky dulcimer,” allowed the instrument to resonate more and create a louder sound. Thomas crafted his first dulcimer in 1871 and created approximately 1,500 dulcimers in his lifetime.⁷² Loraine Wyman, a noted soprano performing in the early 1900s, conducted field work in Eastern Kentucky and published two collections of folk songs from Appalachia. In 1917, Wyman was photographed for *Vogue* holding an Appalachian dulcimer crafted by Thomas, providing national exposure to an instrument not well-known outside Eastern Kentucky.⁷³

Musicologist and folklorist John Lomax traveled to Berea College to lecture on cowboy songs in 1932. A year later, he returned to Eastern Kentucky with his 18-year-old son Alan to collect traditional music for the Library of Congress’ Archive of American Folk Song. Fiddler Jim Howard in Harlan County provided the project’s earliest recordings. In 1937, John recorded American Folk Song Festival performers in Boyd County while Alan and wife Elizabeth Lyttleton Harold made recordings through 10 Kentucky counties. Columbia University professor Mary Elizabeth Barnicle canvassed Bell County in 1938. Additional recordings of Whitely County native Pete Steele and Bell and Harlan County activists Jim Garland, Sarah Ogan Gunning, and Aunt Molly Jackson were collected outside the region. Today, these recordings, which are held by the Library of Congress, are available online.⁷⁴

Eastern Kentuckians were part of the popularization and commercialization of country music that accompanied the growing popularity of radio. Born in Livingston (Rockcastle County) in 1891, John Lair grew up in Eastern Kentucky’s Renfro Valley and, after a brief stint in the US Army, became manager of the Chicago radio station WLS. Lair worked on the WLS National Barn Dance, a live weekly radio program of traditional and folk music—what was then called “hillbilly music”—and humor that began in 1924 and broadcast from a theater with a live audience. The National Barn Dance targeted rural farm audiences, those who moved to bigger cities, and listeners who were intrigued by “Appalachian music.” By the early 1930, “old-time” music was becoming increasingly accessible through commercial recordings and live broadcasts widely disseminated by radio.⁷⁵

Inspired by the barn dance format’s popularity, Lair started the Renfro Valley Barn Dance on Cincinnati radio station WLW Cincinnati in 1937. Over the next few years, as the Renfro Valley program gained popularity, Lair constructed a large performance venue, restaurant, cabins, and tourist court in Rockcastle County. By November 1939, Lair’s dream of having a permanent home for the show in Eastern Kentucky became a reality when the Renfro Valley Barn Dance moved to the community for which it was named. The program continues today as weekly performances at the updated Renfro Valley Entertainment Center while the *Renfro Valley Gatherin’* radio program, which began broadcasting in September 1943, is the second-

72 “Hindman Dulcimer History,” *Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Co.*, accessed September 2023, <https://troublesomecreekguitars.com/about-us/hindman-dulcimer-history/>.

73 Charles Seeger, “The Appalachian Dulcimer,” *Journal of American Folklore* Vol. 71, No. 279 (Jan. – Mar, 1958), pp. 40–51

74 “About the Project,” The Lomax Kentucky Project, accessed September 2023, <https://lomaxky.omeka.net/about>.

75 Scott Childers, “The WLS National Barn Dance,” accessed September 2023, <https://www.wlshistory.com/NBD/>; “Appalachian Music,” Library of Congress, accessed September 2023, <https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200152683/>.

longest continually running radio program featuring country music (after the *Grand Ole Opry*, which was started in 1925).⁷⁶

Folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s broadened the national interest in traditional mountain music and song. Leonard Roberts, a native of Floyd County who graduated from Pikeville High School before continuing his education at Berea College, focused his doctoral research on eastern Kentucky folklore and music. His dissertation, which was based on folk narratives and sound recordings collected in Leslie and Perry Counties, was published in 1955 as “South from Hell-fer-Sartin: Kentucky Mountain Folktales.”⁷⁷

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings released “Mountain Music of Kentucky” in 1960. Described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “one of the greatest records in the entire literature of American folk song,” the record features performances by Bill Cornett, Willie Chapman, Roscoe Holcomb, and other local musicians.⁷⁸ Born in Viper, an unincorporated community in Perry County, Jean Ritche (1922–2015), the niece of master dulcimer craftsman Jethro Amburgey (1895–1971), is credited with the dulcimer revival of the mid-20th century. Richie’s influence can be heard in the music and performances of many folk singers of the 1960s, including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Emmylou Harris, and Judy Collins.⁷⁹

Musicians from Eastern Kentucky have influenced blues, jazz, bluegrass, honky-tonk, country, gospel, and pop. Designated a national scenic byway in 2002, US 23 Country Music Highway runs 150 miles through seven Eastern Kentucky counties. The byway celebrates the success of local musicians throughout the 20th century and proudly proclaims that the area has produced more million-selling singers per capita than anywhere else in the world. Born in Olive Hill (Carter County), Tom T. Hall played bluegrass with the Kentucky Travelers on the radio in Morehead (Rowan County) as a teenager in the 1950s before becoming well-known for writing and performing storytelling country songs.⁸⁰ The first woman to be named Country Music Association’s Entertainer of the Year, Loretta Lynn sang about being raised “in a cabin on a hill in Butcher Holler” in Van Lear (Johnson County) in her hit song “Coal Miner’s Daughter.” Her sister Crystal Gayle, who had 21 country hits in the 1970s, also called Butcher Hollow home. Ashland (Boyd County) was the hometown of Naomi and Wynonna Judd, the most successful duo in country music history, and Keith Whitley, a neotraditional country singer who charted a total of 19 singles on the 1980s country charts even though his life was cut short at the age of 34.⁸¹ The music video for “Achy Breaky Heart,” the 1992

76 David Baxter, “Lair, John, House and Stables” National Register of Historic Preservation registration form, 1995, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/55716776-741f-4e5d-8544-6dbf3aa0a1be>; “History,” Renfro Valley Entertainment Center, accessed October 2023, <https://renfrovalley.com/history/>.

77 “Leonard Roberts Papers, 1950-1983,” Berea College Special Collections and Archives Catalog, accessed September 2023, <https://berea.libraryhost.com/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=57#abstract>; Leonard W. Roberts, *South from Hell-fer-Sartin* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1955), <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/232564895.pdf>.

78 “Mountain Music of Kentucky,” Smithsonian Folkways Recordings Catalog, accessed September 2023, <https://folkways.si.edu/mountain-music-of-kentucky/american-folk-old-time/album/smithsonian>.

79 Ron Gibson, “A Brief History of the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer,” *Ron Gibson Mountain Dulcimer*, 2020, https://gibsondulcimers.com/dulcimer_history.html.

80 “Tom T. Hall,” *Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.countrymusichalloffame.org/hall-of-fame/tom-t-hall/>.

81 Cindy Watts, “Keith Whitley’s family remembers their father, husband on the 30th anniversary of his death,” *The Tennessean*, May 8, 2019, <https://www.tennessean.com/story/entertainment/2019/05/08/keith-whitley-country-music-hall-of-fame-exhibit-lorrie-morgan/1141495001/>.

country crossover hit recorded by Flatwoods-native (Greenup) Billy Ray Cyrus, was filmed in Ashland's historic Paramount Theater. Country Music Hall of Famer Patty Loveless and Grammy Award-winner and sometimes-actor Dwight Yoakam are from Pikeville (Pike County). Country and bluegrass singer, composer, producer, and mandolin and fiddle player Ricky Skaggs is from Cordell (Lawrence County). Academy of Country Music's Artist-Songwriter of the Decade for the 2010s Chris Stapleton grew up in Staffordsville (Johnson County). Sturgill Simpson is from Jackson (Breathitt County). The outlaw country singer is also a well-known producer and has worked on albums with Tyler Childers, a native of Paintsville (Johnson County).

Music holds an important place in Eastern Kentucky and provides ways for generations to connect and pass down tradition. Hazard Community and Technical College's Kentucky School of Bluegrass & Traditional Music in Hyden (Leslie County) offers classes in banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass, fiddle, resophonic guitar, and vocal performance, as well as songwriting, recording, business, marketing, and management. Students in the Professional Studio Artist program may earn a diploma or certificate in bluegrass and traditional music while they prepare for careers as independent studio artists, performers, studio technicians, or other fields in the applied arts.⁸² Appalachian Artisan Center's Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Studios in Hindman produces hand-crafted dulcimers in the tradition popularized by "Uncle Ed" Thomas and hosts an annual dulcimer homecoming event. The Kentucky Music Hall of Fame is located next door to Renfro Valley Entertainment Center in Rockcastle County. The Museum of the Mountain Dulcimer is located in the Cody Studio Building at Appalachian Artisan Center.⁸³

Appalshop in Letcher County started as a community film workshop in 1969, expanded into all forms of art and media, and has become to the largest single body of creative work on Appalachia in the world.⁸⁴ Radio station WMMT broadcasts from the Appalshop building in Whitesburg (Letcher County) with the mission to be "a 24 hour voice of mountain people's music, culture, and social issues to provide broadcast space for creative expression and community involvement in making radio, and to be an active participant in discussion of public policy that will benefit coalfield communities and the Appalachian region as a whole."⁸⁵ Founded in 1974 by Appalshop, June Appal Recordings produced a catalog of almost 100 records that represent the breadth of Appalachian music and continues to manage a state-of-the-art archive that preserves thousands of hours of recorded traditional music.⁸⁶

Seedtime on the Cumberland, Appalshop's annual music festival, has celebrated old-time music since the festival's creation in 1986. Recent lineups have expanded to include other regional music and fusion groups and even has a companion punk show.⁸⁷ Appalshop also partners with Cowan Creek Mountain Music School to host a week-long summer celebration of local music and heritage in Whitesburg (Letcher County) that includes classes, workshops,

82 "HCTC," *Hazard Community and Technical College*, accessed September 2023, <http://ksbtm.hazard.kctcs.edu/>.

83 "Museum of the Mountain Dulcimer," *Kentucky Wildlands*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.explorekywildlands.com/listing/museum-of-the-mountain-dulcimer/2784/>.

84 "Our Story," *Appalshop*, accessed September 2023, <https://appalshop.org/what-we-do>.

85 "About," *WMMT 88.7*, accessed September 2023, <https://wmmt.org/about>.

86 "Record Label," *Appalshop*, accessed September 2023, <https://appalshop.org/what-we-do/record-label>.

87 "Appalshop News: Join us for the 37th Annual Seedtime on the Cumberland Festival," *Appalshop*, February 5, 2023, <https://appalshop.org/news/join-us-for-the-37th-annual-seedtime-on-the-cumberland-festival>.

jam sessions, and concerts that center the living traditions of Kentucky artists and educators.⁸⁸ Recently, the program has focused on incorporating diversity, inclusion, and cultural-historical context into its offerings with the acknowledgement that Appalachian music has always been political in nature.⁸⁹

ANALYSIS

The rugged terrain of the Cumberland Plateau, an elevated, flat-topped landform in the southeastern Appalachian Region, encompasses a landscape and culture distinct to the uplands of Eastern Kentucky and adjacent areas of Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee that make up central Appalachia. The “wildlands” of eastern Kentucky—defined by the plateau’s topographic relief, mountains, gorges, and other landforms—are home to ecological diversity, geologic and scenic wonders, and a rich human history that predate the founding of the United States. The region has supported the growth of the United States and its industries while highlighting the importance of self-determination as it grapples with the complex and nuanced legacy of social, economic, and political “progress.” The historically difficult-to-traverse landscape that bred self-reliance and local pride in long-established families and newcomers alike is now an ideal place to explore, recreate, and contemplate the region’s historic contributions and living culture. While Eastern Kentucky’s outdoor recreation industry has largely developed within the last 50 years as a potential economic driver in the face of declining coal production, the resources that support hiking, paddling, fishing, hunting, scenic views, and heritage tourism are integral to understanding the cultural and natural history of the region. Based on the study team’s research, public comment, and subject matter experts’ input, the study area in Eastern Kentucky appears to meet the national heritage area feasibility study guidelines by having an assemblage of resources that convey the region’s distinctive culture and its people’s contributions to the nation’s history, economic growth, and social movements. The story is captured in the following significance statement:

Encompassing 35 counties in Eastern Kentucky, the Kentucky Wildlands is a geographic and cultural region that embodies the concepts of self-reliance, sustainability, and community that are recognized as the foundations of central Appalachian identity. Through the Cumberland Plateau’s rich natural resources that fueled the rise of late 19th- and 20th-century industry; local musicians’ enduring influence on popular American music; the accomplishments of community-driven activists, entrepreneurs, and educators; and the resilience of the groups that call Eastern Kentucky home, the reach of the people and products of Kentucky Wildlands extends far beyond the mountainous terrain where they originate.

88 “Home,” Coward Creek Music School, accessed September 2023, <https://cowancreekmusic.org/>.

89 Rebecca Stern, “In Kentucky, a Music School Focuses on Appalachian Music,” *Daily Yonder*, July 12, 2022, <https://dailyyonder.com/in-kentucky-a-music-school-focuses-on-appalachian-music-and-inclusion/2022/07/12/>.

POTENTIAL THEMES

Interpretive themes are the key stories that further elaborate on the most important ideas or concepts about the significance while communicating why these stories are important today. Interpretive themes help to explain why a story is significant and relevant to people visiting a national heritage area and describe resources that support the nationally important story. By first determining the region's contributions to our national heritage, the study team may better focus its work on identifying the natural and cultural resources associated with those contributions and the themes that may best enable the public to understand, appreciate, and celebrate their importance.

Public comments, expert focus group discussions, and corresponding historic research contributed to interpretive themes inspired by the landscape, existing resources, and local culture of the Kentucky Wildlands region. Potential themes that illuminate the study area's significance include the following:

- **Appalachian Identity.** The people, places, and experiences found in the Kentucky Wildlands together create a distinct and complex culture that is deeply rooted in the Appalachian Mountains. This sense of pride, love of place, and cultural identity pushes Eastern Kentuckians to share stories outside the mainstream narrative, challenge stereotypes, and showcase the nuances of the region.
- **Community Strength through Collaboration.** Throughout the human history of the Kentucky Wildlands, the region's people have created and sustained a sense of community through learning and living with the land. The remote nature of Eastern Kentucky and its settlements has strengthened bonds among the diverse people drawn to the Appalachian Mountains and has cultivated a way of life that values self-sufficiency as much as the collective well-being of local kin-based, identity-based, geographic, and chosen communities.
- **Mutual Aid and Activism.** Homegrown activists devoted to addressing the issues impacting the region's natural and geologic resources and its residents and social movements dedicated to mutual aid have called national attention to social issues, nurtured local partnerships to meet the needs of residents, celebrated the diversity of the Appalachian experience, and recognized the dignity of all Appalachians.
- **Enduring Culture.** Despite the seeming geographic isolation of the Appalachian Mountains, the residents, organizations, and communities of the Kentucky Wildlands continue to celebrate the region's rich history, adapt to shifting economies and population demographics, analyze their connection and impacts on the rest of the country, and invite others to come into their homeplace to experience and better understand the beauty of the region.

As stated in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019):

Themes developed during the NHA feasibility study may not be fully carried in a future heritage area management plan completed by a local management entity. The purpose of theme development for the study is to determine that a viable theme structure exists in the study area. Careful consideration of themes and a public process for developing them during the study will assist local interests in later theme related planning if NHA designation results.

CONCLUSION

The Kentucky Wildlands in Eastern Kentucky appears to be a nationally distinctive landscape, as defined by the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019), due to the notable physical landscape of the Cumberland Plateau and Appalachian Mountains and the assemblage of resources that directly support or illustrate the area's distinct and rich culture, sense of community, history of activism and resilience.

Together, the significance statement and potential interpretive themes presented in this study convey the importance of and additional context related to a nationally distinctive geographic and cultural landscape and could provide the thematic framework to support a national heritage area.

Chapter 3

Study Area Resource Analysis



CHAPTER 3: STUDY AREA RESOURCE ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

This analysis is a preliminary step before the study team analyzes the 10 national heritage area (NHA) criteria for evaluation. The determination of national importance includes an analysis of study area resources to determine whether there exists a strategic assemblage of related resources capable of supporting the interpretation of an area's contributions to the nation's heritage.

For the purpose of this analysis, the term “strategic assemblage of resources” is defined as a concentration of resources that together support the nationally distinctive landscape. To comprise a strategic assemblage, these resources must be directly associated with the significance statement and themes to enable an authentic experience of the national story. To be an assemblage, such resources must also be geographically close to one another to (1) form a cohesive landscape, (2) be effectively and comprehensively managed by one coordinating entity, and (3) enable interpretation of the area of significance. If the individual resources are too widely dispersed to form a cohesive whole or if the resources are too few in number, any of these important aspects of a national heritage area could be diminished.

To determine whether there exists a strategic assemblage of resources that represent the nationally important story and its significance statement and themes, the study team conducted an extensive analysis of resources currently preserved and those that may have the potential to be further conserved and/or interpreted. The study team considered resources identified through research, public outreach, and subject matter experts' suggestions to determine whether the study area has a strategic assemblage of resources that meet the NHA criteria. (See appendix C for a partial list of study area resources compiled for the feasibility study.)

METHODOLOGY

The determination of a nationally distinctive landscape depends on the evaluation of resources in the study area. Analyzing the type and number of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources can help the study team consider how resources may support the nationally distinctive landscape, illustrate the proposed themes, and determine if extant resources have a degree of integrity to support interpretation as part of a potential national heritage area.

The process of analyzing the resources involved compiling a list to examine the types of resources present in the Eastern Kentucky study area and determining whether these types of resources would support the criteria outlined in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act (P.L. 116-94) and those established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

The resources included in appendix B and described in this chapter are provided to highlight the type of resources found in the area and serve as a starting point for the study team's analysis. **This resource list is not intended to be comprehensive.** Private sites, such as legacy homesteads, restaurants and other visitor services, conservation easements, and historic

structures, may also contribute to the landscape and heritage of the study area but were not the primary focus of the resource list or this NHA feasibility study.

Additional natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources in the study area may contribute to a potential heritage area or support the nationally important story and associated themes described in this NHA feasibility study. Those resources could be supported and interpreted in the potential future heritage area, even if they are not listed in the partial inventory created to support this study.

SELECT NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

The study area is located in the Ohio Water Resource Region, which includes approximately 162,916 square miles.^{90,91} The waterways in the study area (listed below) are bound by the Appalachian Mountains on the east and flow in a net northerly direction, eventually draining into the Ohio River Basin. The direction and rate of flow are influenced by the elevation and formation of the geological formations previously described and are characterized by rocky rapids and waterfalls where the topography is most diverse.⁹² The following are watersheds that border or overlap this area:

- Big Sandy (HUC⁹³ 05702)
- Middle Ohio-Raccoon (HUC 050901)
- Middle Ohio-Little Miami (HUC 050902)
- Licking (HUC (051001)
- Kentucky (HUC 051002)
- Green (HUC 05110)
- Upper Cumberland (HUC 051301)
- Lower Ohio-Salt (HUC 051401)
- Upper Tennessee (HUC 060102)

Special Use Waters

The Kentucky Division of Water Priority Watersheds represent watersheds where the division intends to focus limited resources to improve water quality. The Kentucky Waterways Alliance coordinates efforts to work with communities on watershed projects. The organization also

90 US Geological Survey Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) 3.0, available at <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9Q9LQ4B>.

91 US Geological Survey, National Geospatial Program, 20220419, USGS National Hydrography Dataset Best Resolution (NHD) - Kentucky (published 20220419): US Geological Survey. Accessed September 2023.

92 US Department of Agriculture, 2017 Census of Agriculture. Watersheds. Volume 2, Subject Series, Part 6 (AC17-S-6).

93 HUC = Hydrological unit code. Hydrologic units represent the area of the landscape that drains to a portion of the stream network. Each drainage has a unique hydrologic unit code. The most current national hydrologic unit dataset is the Watershed Boundary Dataset, available through the USGS Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US): <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9Q9LQ4B>.

provides information to the public about area land uses and communities, scientific data on water quality, and proposed solutions to identified watershed issues.

Special use water are waters listed in the Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) (401 KAR 10:026 and 401 KAR 10:030) and are noted as waters that are worthy of and receive additional water quality protections.⁹⁴

The following special-use waters are located in the study area ():

- **Cold Water Aquatic Habitat** refers to surface waters and associated substrates that will support Indigenous aquatic life or self-sustaining or reproducing trout populations on a year-round basis.
- **Exceptional Waters** refer to certain waterbodies whose quality exceeds that necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and recreation in and on the water. Waters placed in this category include Kentucky Wild Rivers (table 4), some Outstanding State Resource Waters (described below), and waters rated by the Kentucky Division of Water as having excellent fish or macro-invertebrate communities.⁹⁵
- **Outstanding Natural Resource Waters** are waters meeting the requirements for an outstanding state resource water classification and are of national, ecological, or recreational significance. These waters receive special protection against degradation under Kentucky’s water quality standards and the federal Clean Water Act. Waters eligible in this designation include high-quality waters that have not been significantly modified by human activities.
- **Outstanding State Resource Waters** are designated by Kentucky’s Energy and Environment Cabinet and include surface waters containing federally threatened or endangered species and have specific water quality standards that apply to protect their water quality.

94 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, “Special Use Waters,” <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Regs/Pages/SpecialH2O.aspx>.

95 Aquatic macroinvertebrates are immature insects and other invertebrate animals that spend at least part of their lives in water. This group of organisms has an important role in freshwater ecosystems, as they recycle nutrients and are prey for larger organisms in the food chain. Aquatic macroinvertebrates may include snails, mussels, clams, and the nymph stages of mayflies, dragonflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies.

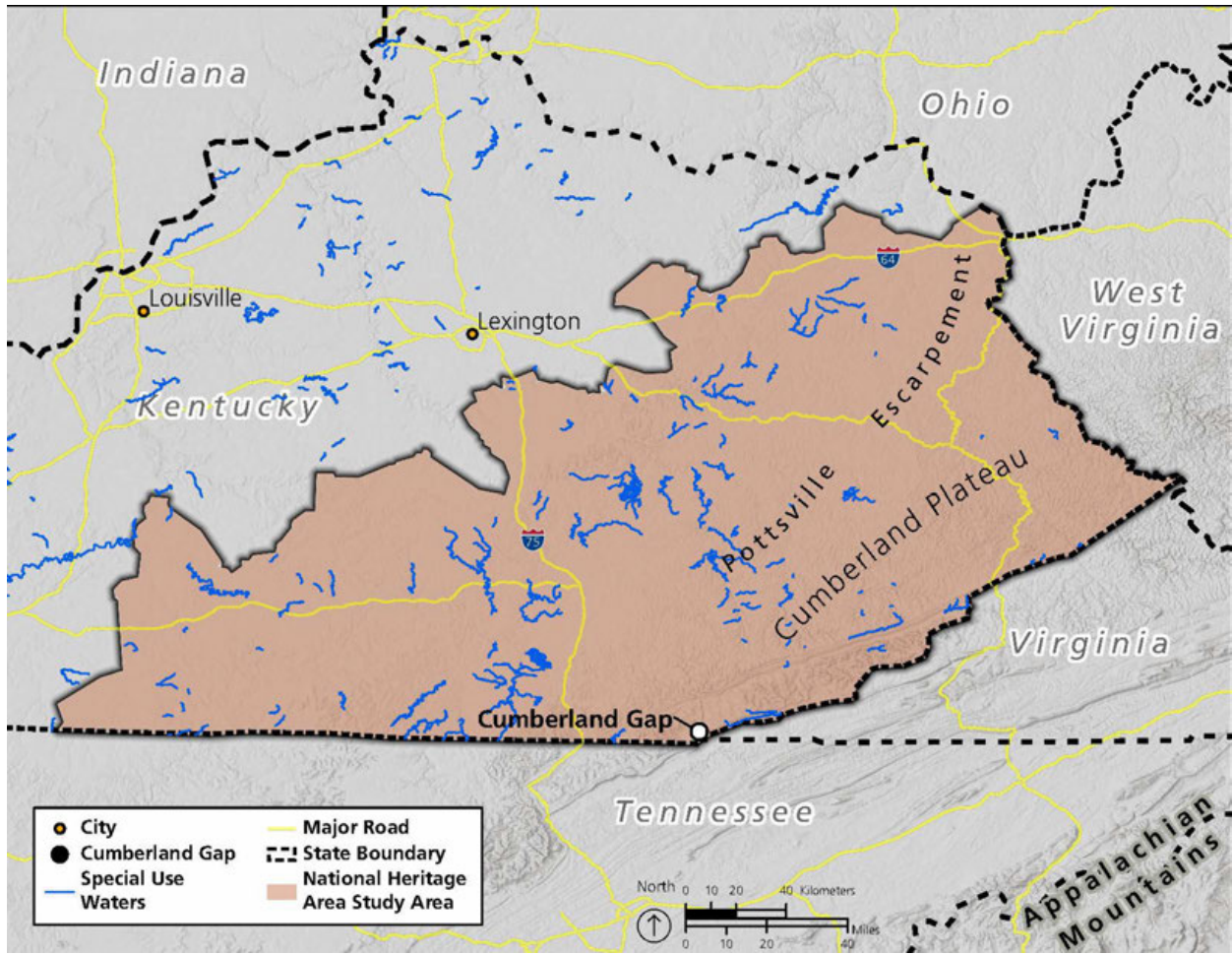


FIGURE 4. SPECIAL-USE WATERS

Kentucky Wild Rivers

The Kentucky Wild Rivers Act of 1972 established a state program to recognize and conserve the unique scenic, fish and wildlife, botanical, geological, cultural, and recreational values of Kentucky’s most pristine rivers. Specific linear corridors of nine Kentucky rivers have been designated that include the river and all visible land on each side of the river up to 2,000 feet from the banks. State wild rivers are held in a public trust by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and are protected from development, mining, clear-cutting, and in-stream disturbances, including dam construction. Eight of the state’s wild rivers are in the study area.

Table 4. Kentucky State Wild Rivers

Name	County	Designated River Miles
Bad Branch	Letcher	0.1 to 3.0
Big South Fork of the Cumberland River	McCreary	45 to 55.2
Little South Fork of the Cumberland River	Wayne	4.1 to 14.5
Martin’s Fork	Harlan	24.4 to 31.3

Name	County	Designated River Miles
Cumberland River	Whitley	558.5 to 574.6
Red River	Wolfe	59.9 to 68.6
Rock Creek	McCreary	3.9 to 21.9
Rockcastle River	Laurel	.5 to 24.4

*Red River National Wild and Scenic River*⁹⁶ — In the Clifty Wilderness Areas (Daniel Boone National Forest), the Red River National Wild and Scenic River is a 19.4-mile section of the Red River flowing through the Red River Gorge, which was designated in 1993. Kentucky also designated an additional 9.1-mile portion of the river as a Kentucky Wild River (described below).

The area is managed by the Daniel Boone National Forest as wilderness to provide a semiprimitive, nonmotorized experience near trails, access points, and other concentrated use areas. In other more remote areas, primitive recreation experiences are available. Access to the river corridor is limited to a few primitive hiking trails to protect natural resources rather than provide for human comfort or convenience. Hiking, primitive camping, rock climbing, fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, and rafting are allowed where they do not adversely impact the wilderness resource.

Within this reach, the river has “wild” and “recreational” designations. The “wild” designation indicates that the river areas are free of impoundments and are generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and the waters are unpolluted. The “recreational” designation is defined as areas of the river that are “readily accessible” by road or railroad, that may have some shoreline development, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

The Red River draws river enthusiasts from all over Kentucky and from surrounding states. Rugged shorelines edged with steep rock cliffs and a river with abundant large boulders provide canoeists and kayakers a variety of whitewater, from Class II and III during the winter and spring run-offs to Class I during the low water flows of summer. In addition, national recreation trails in the area, such as the Red River, Osborne Bend, and Sheltoewe Trace National Recreation Trails, provide access into the river corridor for activities such as viewing scenery and wildlife and hiking into the forest. The area is internationally known as having some of the world’s premier rock-climbing areas, some of which are in the river corridor.

More than 70 species of fish and 16 species of mussels are known to live in the Red River’s free-flowing waters. The surrounding cliffs contain occurrences of the white-haired goldenrod (*Solidago albopilosa*), a plant known only from the Red River Gorge region of Eastern Kentucky.

96 “Red River, Kentucky,” *National Wild and Scenic Rivers System*, 2023, <https://www.rivers.gov/rivers/river/red>.

US Army Corps of Engineers Managed Reservoirs

The study area falls within the Louisville, Nashville, and Huntington Districts in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The US Army Corps of Engineers provides public engineering services to reduce risks from disasters, develop and maintain waterway infrastructure to support movement of critical commodities, and provide public recreation opportunities at campgrounds, reservoirs, and marinas. The Louisville, Nashville, and Huntington Districts partner with several federal, state, and local agencies to provide recreational facilities for visitors, including fishing and boating, campgrounds, and areas for mountain biking and horseback riding.

Table 5. US Army Corps of Engineer Managed Reservoirs in the Study Area

Reservoir Name	Dam Name	USACE District	County(ies) in Study Area	Associated Public Area	Minimum Reservoir Area (acres)
Buckhorn Lake	Buckhorn Lake Dam	Louisville District	Leslie, Perry	Buckhorn Lake State Park	1,230
Carr Creek Lake	Carr Creek Lake Dam	Louisville District	Knott	Carr Creek State Park	710
Cave Run Lake	Cave Run Lake Dam	Louisville District	Bath, Menifee, Morgan, Rowan	Daniel Boone National Forest	8,270
Green River Lake	Green River Lake Dam	Louisville District	Adair	Green River Lake State Park	8,210
Lake Cumberland	Wolf Creek Dam	Nashville District	Laurel, Pulaski, Russell, Wayne	Lake Cumberland State Resort Park	35,820
Laurel River Lake	Laurel Dam	Nashville District	Laurel, Whitley	Daniel Boone National Forest	5,600
Martins Fork Lake	Martins Fork Dam	Nashville District	Harlan	Martin's Fork State Natural Area	274
Grayson Lake	Grayson Dam	Huntington District	Carter, Elliot	Grayson Lake State Park	1,500
Yatesville Lake	Yatesville Dam	Huntington District	Lawrence	Yatesville Lake State Park	1,745
Paintsville Lake	Paintsville Dam	Huntington District	Johnson, Morgan	Paintsville Lake State Park	1,139
Dewey Lake	Dewey Dam	Huntington District	Floyd	Jenny Wiley State Resort	1,100
Fishtrap Lake	Fishtrap Dam	Huntington District	Pike	Fishtrap Wildlife Management Area	1,130

LAND PROTECTION EFFORTS

Several government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and advocacy groups recognize the value of protecting natural resources through land protection efforts throughout Eastern Kentucky. The protection and management of natural resources occur through partnerships and networks focused on conservation efforts, preservation efforts, research, management, and education.

Protected Areas

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)⁹⁷ defines a protected area as “A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” and is further expanded into the following six management categories (one with a subdivision):

- **Ia Strict nature reserve.** Strictly protected for biodiversity and also possibly geological/ geomorphological features, where human visitation, use, and impacts are controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values.
- **Ib Wilderness area.** Usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, and protected and managed to preserve their natural condition.
- **II National park.** Large natural or near-natural areas protecting large-scale ecological processes with characteristic species and ecosystems, which also have environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities. Please note that this is the IUCN definition; not the land management category as used in the United States.
- **III Natural monument or feature.** Areas set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, marine cavern, geological feature such as a cave, or a living feature such as an ancient grove.
- **IV Habitat/species management area.** Areas to protect particular species or habitats, where management reflects this priority. Many will need regular, active interventions to meet the needs of particular species or habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category.
- **V Protected landscape or seascape.** Where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced a distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural, and scenic value, and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.

⁹⁷ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), “Guidelines for Applying Protected Areas Management Categories. Developing capacity for a protected planet,” (Gland: Switzerland, 2013).

- **VI Protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources.** Areas that conserve ecosystems, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. Generally large, mainly in a natural condition, with a proportion under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level nonindustrial natural resource use compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main goals.

The IUCN standards are incorporated into the US Geological Survey Protected Area Database, which is an inventory of marine and terrestrial protected areas throughout the United States.⁹⁸ In the United States, protected areas are lands managed by different federal, state, Tribal, and local-level authorities. Protected areas may include forests, parks, reserves, preserves, refuges, and conservation easements, among other designation. The study area contains an extensive number of protected areas that demonstrate a strong sense of the region’s natural character, are managed for their natural values and associated cultural values, and meet international standards for safeguarding natural environments.⁹⁹ These protected areas may be managed for biodiversity, science and research values and may include nonmotorized recreation. Some protected areas may span areas that are managed by multiple agencies. A total of 76,116 acres of land are managed as protected areas out of the approximately 1.1 million of acres of the study area (see table 6 and figure 5).

Table 6. Summary of Protected Areas in the Study Area

Management Agency or Organization	Acres Conserved
Federal	23,754
US Forest Service*	20,932
National Park Service*	146
US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (conservation easements)	2,676
Kentucky State government**	28,451
Nongovernmental organizations (NGO)	17,119
Joint (one or more agencies and/or NGOs)	5,220
Local governments (city, county)	1,119
Private lands (not NGOs)	453
Total Acres of Protected Areas	76,116

Note: Reflects Data Reported in 2022 USGS PAD Data (<https://doi.org/10.5066/P9Q9LQ4B>).

*Though there are additional US Forest Service (USFS) and NPS lands in this study area, this table reflects those USFS and NPS lands meeting the IUCN categories summarized above and as reported in USGS PAD Data.

**Includes departments and/or agencies under Kentucky State government, including Department of Natural Resources, State Fish and Wildlife, Kentucky Nature Preserves, and the Department of Conservation, Parks and Recreation.

98 USGS, Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US). 2022, <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/61794fc2d34ea58c3c6f9f69>.

99 USGS, Gap Analysis Project, 2022, Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) 3.0: US Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9Q9LQ4B>; IUCN, “guidelines for Applying Protected Areas Management Categories.”

Designated Federal Wilderness

The Daniel Boone National Forest contains areas of designated Wilderness, and these areas are reflected in the protected lands indicated in table 6. (For a full description of the Daniel Boone National Forest, refer to the “US Forest Service” section). Designated Wilderness lands have been designated by Congress for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system. This designation comes with a requirement to manage the wilderness area according to the Wilderness Act of 1964 and NPS policy. Both law and policy emphasize the requirement to preserve the area’s wilderness character.

- **Beaver Creek Wilderness (McCreary County).** Federally designated in 1975, the 4,791-acre wilderness area is managed by the Sterns Ranger District of Daniel Boone National Forest.
- **Clifty Wilderness (Menifee, Wolfe Counties).** Located in the Red River Gorge Geological Area, Clifty Wilderness was designated in 1985 and protects 13,344 acres of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The area is managed by the Cumberland Ranger District of Daniel Boone National Forest.

Proposed Federal Wilderness

The National Park Service also manages 14,091 acres at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park as recommended wilderness, which is bisected by the Kentucky-West Virginia state line in this national park unit.¹⁰⁰ Recommended wilderness is different than designated Wilderness. Rather, recommended wilderness lands are managed to preserve their wilderness character according to NPS policy rather than the Wilderness Act (a federal law). Recommended wilderness occurs after an eligible wilderness area that has been studied and proposed by the National Park Service is recommended for wilderness designation by the Department of the Interior to the president. The recommendation is then transmitted by the president as a recommendation for wilderness designation to Congress.

Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves

The Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (established 2018) is an agency in the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet. The Kentucky Office of Nature Preserve programs include activities to benefit the citizens of Kentucky through the acquisition and maintenance of certain lands for use as state parks, recreation areas, state forests, nature preserves, wildlife management areas, and wetlands through administration of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

The Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves has statutory duties to oversee, direct, or manage four distinct programs to conserve natural areas and protect Kentucky’s Natural Heritage. While these programs share common goals (rare species habitat, environmental education opportunities, conservation of natural areas), there are differences between the programs, as follows:

¹⁰⁰ National Park Service, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Washington, DC: Department of Interior, 2010).

- Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund – Assists with funding conservation at the local and state level
- State Nature Preserve Program – Prioritizes rare species habitat conservation and the quiet enjoyment of natural areas
- Wild Rivers Program – Focuses on riparian forest conservation and paddling opportunities on pristine rivers and streams
- The Natural Areas Registry – Recognizes private landowners and others who own land with outstanding ecological attributes

Table 7 lists Kentucky Natural Areas located in the study area that are owned and managed at the state, county, and/or city levels, and/or are open to the public.

Table 7. Kentucky Natural Areas

Name	County	Type of Area	Owner/Manager	Size (acres)	Access Type
Kentucky Ridge State Forest and Wildlife Management Area	Bell	Nature Preserve	Kentucky Division of Forestry and Kentucky Department for Fish and Wildlife Resources	3,782.38	Open to public
Pine Mountain State Park State Nature Preserve	Bell	Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Parks	980	Open to public
Carter Caves State Park and Nature Preserves	Carter	Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Parks	1820	Open to public
Olive Hill Lake Conservation	Carter	Heritage Land	City of Olive Hill	2.15	By appointment
Tygart’s State Forest	Carter	Nature Preserve	Kentucky Division of Forestry	1175	Open to public
Lily Mountain	Estill	Nature Preserve	Estill County Conservation District	565	Open to public
Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve	Harlan	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	3,509	Open to public
E. Lucy Braun State Nature Preserve	Harlan	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	609	Open to public
Hi Lewis State Nature Preserve	Harlan	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	427	Research only
James E. Bickford State Nature Preserve	Harlan	Nature Preserve	Pine Mountain Settlement School	347.84	Open to public
Kentonia State Forest	Harlan	Nature Preserve	Kentucky Division of Forestry	762.03	Open to public
Martin’s Fork State Natural Area	Harlan	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	1,600	Open to public

Name	County	Type of Area	Owner/Manager	Size (acres)	Access Type
Stone Mountain Wildlife Management Area and State Natural Area	Harlan	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves/Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	1,017	Open to public
Sinking Creek State Natural Area	Laurel	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	301	Open to public
Whitley Branch Wetlands	Laurel	Heritage Land	City of London	75.57	By appointment
Bad Branch State Nature Preserve	Letcher	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves/The Nature Conservancy	2,829	Open to public
Kingdom Come State Park and State Nature Preserve	Letcher	Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Parks	225	Open to public
Liley Cornett Woods	Letcher	Nature Preserve	Eastern Kentucky University	550	By appointment
Cumberland Falls State Park and Nature Preserve	McCreary	Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Parks	1,413	Open to public
Broke Leg Falls	Menifee	Heritage Land	Menifee County Fiscal Court	15.85	Open to public
Natural Bridge State Nature Preserve	Powell	Nature Preserve	Kentucky Department of Parks	1,659	Open to public
Pilot Knob State Nature Preserve	Powell	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	742	Open to public
Buck Creek Preserve	Pulaski	Heritage Land	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	35.26	Open to public
Frances Johnson Palk State Nature Preserve	Pulaski	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	250	Research only**
Hazeldell Meadow	Pulaski	Heritage Land	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	39.35	Open to public
William H. Martin State Natural Area	Pulaski	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	458.96	Open to public
John B. Stephenson State Nature Preserve	Rockcastle	Nature Preserve	Berea College*	123	Open to public
Little South Fort State Natural Areas	Wayne	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	3,145.42	Open to public
Archer-Benge State Nature Preserve	Whitley	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	2,229	Research only**
Red River State Natural Area	Wolfe	Nature Preserve	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves	754	Research only**

Note: Reflects data from Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet (<https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/Locations/Pages/default.aspx>).

*Berea College is a private college in Berea, Kentucky; however, its nature reserve is open for public access.

**"Research only" access types are natural areas containing highly sensitive natural features, such as rare and/or protected plants, animals and/or vegetation communities, and require a research permit to access.

National Natural Landmarks

The National Natural Landmarks Program recognizes and encourages the conservation of sites containing outstanding biological and geological resources. The Secretary of the Interior designates sites for their condition, illustrative character, rarity, diversity, and value to science and education. The National Park Service administers the program and works cooperatively with landowners, managers, and partners to promote conservation and appreciation of the nation’s natural heritage.

National natural landmarks are not national parks. National natural landmarks are owned by a variety of public and private entities, and allowing visitation is at their discretion.

Table 8. National Natural Landmarks in the Study Area

Landmark Name	Description	County	Ownership	Acres
Lilley Cornett Woods	Lilley Cornett Woods is probably the only surviving old-growth tract of any size in the Cumberland Mountains section of the mixed mesophytic forest.	Letcher	Eastern Kentucky University (private)	548
Red River Gorge	This area contains examples of many geological formations, including 41 natural bridges. The site also supports an extremely diverse flora, including endemic, rare, and relict species.	Menifee, Powell, Wolfe	Private and federal ownership	32,223
Rock Creek Research Natural Area	Rock Creek Research Natural Area, located in the Daniel Boone National Forest, harbors one of the few old-growth hemlock-hardwood forests remaining in Kentucky.	Laurel	Federal	86
Creelsboro Natural Bridge	Creelsboro Natural Bridge is the longest natural bridge, or natural tunnel, in the Highland Rim section of the Interior Low Plateaus biophysiological province. The occasional diversion of Jim Creek through the tunnel into the Cumberland River is an outstanding illustration of subterranean stream diversion. This is the process that formed and continues to form the bridge.	Russel	Private ownership	7

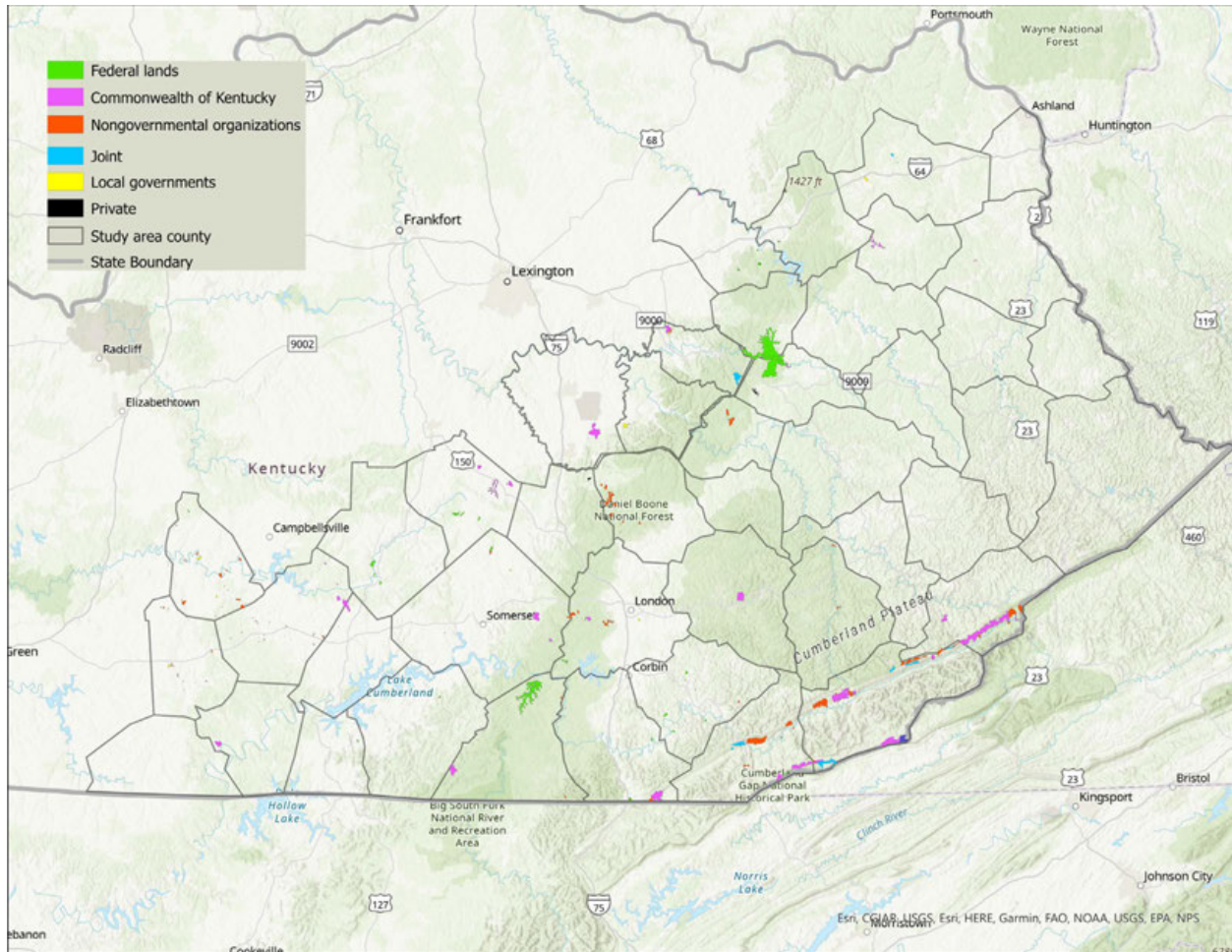


FIGURE 5. PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Habitat, Wildlife, and Rare Species

Kentucky’s landscape is among the most varied terrains in the Eastern United States. The ecological and biological diversity here is strongly tied to the degree of regional geologic and geographic variability, as well as land use and soil characteristics (Kentucky DFWR 2023).

To determine the relative degree of biological diversity for any given area, the NatureServe Network builds from available partner data for the terrain, climate, land cover, soils type, and hydrology of a given area. The resulting analysis provides a predictive model to help identify areas of high conservation importance. A review of the NatureServe Network analysis (2021) indicates that the study area is one of the most biologically rich regions in the United States and contains potential habitat and occurrences for several plant and animal species. These plant and animal species, in turn, are prioritized for conservation by state and federal agencies and conservation organizations.

Distributed throughout the analysis areas are protected natural resource areas that may be managed by federal, state, county and other local government agencies and organizations. These areas provide quality habitat for groupings of plant and animal species that are

protected by the Endangered Species Act and/or are rare at a global scale. The plant and animal species fall in the following groups:

- Lichens, mosses
- Vascular plants (e.g., grasses, flowers, shrubs, trees)
- Freshwater invertebrates (e.g., insects, snails, mussels, crayfishes)
- Terrestrial invertebrates (e.g., butterflies, skippers, bumblebees)
- Vertebrates (birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, freshwater fishes)

Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Species, and Critical Habitat

Federally protected species include several species of bats, clams and mussels, and flowering plants and the study area contains all or portions of critical habitat for protecting federally listed aquatic species (USFWS 2023). In the study area, 54 plant and animal species and/or species critical habitats listed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Endangered Species Act (7 U.S.C. 136, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) have the potential to occur. The USFWS Ecological Services Program works to restore and protect wildlife and plant populations and their habitat. This agency works with federal, state, Tribal, local, and nonprofit organizations to manage threats to these natural resources.

The study area falls within the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office (lead office), as well as the Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia Ecological Field Services Offices. Critical habitat for some species is also known to occur. See appendix E for a summary of federally protected species having potential to occur in the study area.

State Listed, Rare, and Imperiled Species

State wildlife action plans are part of a nationwide effort by all 50 states and 5 US territories to develop conservation action plans and participate in the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program through addressing eight required elements laid out by the US Congress. The purpose of the program is to support state actions that broadly benefit wildlife and habitats, but particularly “Species of Greatest Conservation Need,” as identified by each individual state and supported through biological information obtained for globally rare and imperiled species compiled by the NatureServe Network (2021). First implemented in 2005, state wildlife action plans are reviewed every 10 years. The next revision to all state wildlife action plans will occur in or about 2025, with all 50 states and five US territories submitting their plans for review and compilation into a national list.

Through the development of the Kentucky State Wildlife Action Plan (2023), the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources continually review and provide updated information on species that are prioritized for ecological conservation at the state level. The outcome of these efforts is to establish conservation priorities for plants, animals, and natural communities, and they are referred to as “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” (SCGN). These species are monitored by the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program. In the study area, and in addition to the federally protected plant and animal species, 53 SCGN species are monitored by the state to prioritize

conservation actions to further support these species and the habitats upon which they depend. See appendix E for a summary of state-listed globally rare and imperiled species having the potential to occur in the study area.

Birds

Eastern Kentucky, especially the more mountainous areas, is exceptionally important for bird habitat and bird conservation. Depending on the species and habitat availability, birds use this area to breed or overwinter, as a stopover during migration, or to inhabit the area as year-round residents. Bird conservation is an integrated approach, as birds travel across geopolitical boundaries and move across a wide variety of landscapes. Conservation planning for birds involves a management approach coordinated by partnerships between state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations, known as “joint ventures.” A joint venture is a self-directed partnership of agencies, organizations, corporations, Tribes, or individuals that formally accepts the responsibility of implementing national or international bird conservation plans, receives general acceptance in the bird conservation community for such responsibility, and receives administrative funding through the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their work.¹⁰¹ Part of this approach involves establishing Bird Conservation Regions through the US North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Bird Conservation Regions are ecologically distinct regions in North America with similar bird communities, habitats, and resource management issues.

The Kentucky Wildlands study area is mostly encompassed by Bird Conservation Region 28 (Appalachian Mountains) in the Mississippi Flyway, with a focus on the forested areas that provide habitat for forest-adapted bird species. The conservation efforts here are coordinated by the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV). The AMJV regional partnership comprises more than 55 state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and universities. This partnership stretches from the southwestern Appalachians in Alabama to the northeastern highlands in southern New York; encompasses 103 million acres across portions of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and all of West Virginia; and contains some of the largest expanses of forest remaining in the Eastern United States. Bird species of high priority conservation status in the study area include cerulean warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) at lower elevations and blackthroated blue warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) at higher elevations. Golden-winged warblers (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) may be found in areas where the forest is in early successional stages, and Henslow’s sparrows (*Centronyx henslowii*) may be found where grasslands still exist. Additionally, this region contains the headwaters of several major river systems that waterfowl species use during migration.

In the study area, Lilley Cornett Woods (Letcher County) is known as an “Important Bird Area” (IBA) at the state level. This Important Bird Area encompasses about 554 acres of mixed moist-environment forest, a portion of which (225 acres) is considered old-growth forest. Important Bird Areas were established by BirdLife International in 1980 as an international program of bird conservation partnerships. The National Audubon Society

¹⁰¹ North American Bird Conservation Joint Ventures, *USGS*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/4fbbda49e4b0ee66f48f6703>.

administers the IBA program in the United States in coordination with local entities. Established Important Bird Areas are recognized as important for bird conservation and are designated using a rigorous set of scientific criteria. Designations may be significant at the state, continental, or global level. The goals of the IBA program are to identify essential areas for birds, monitor those sites for changes to birds and habitat, and conserve those areas for long-term protection.

SELECT CULTURAL RESOURCES

National Park Units

Of the nine units of the national park system found in Kentucky, four are either partially or completely located in the study area. Together, these parks represent the state's natural wonders, recreational resources, westward expansion of the young United States, and Kentucky's place in the Civil War.

Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument (Pulaski and Wayne Counties) — Established in 2020, the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument preserves and interprets historic resources associated with the January 19, 1862, Battle of Mill Springs, the first major US victory in the western theater of the Civil War. The battlefield, the fortified Confederate winter encampment, and the fortified ferry landing and mill site were designated a national historic landmark in 1993. The park's legislated boundary includes the battlefield landscape, archeological resources associated with the battle and Confederate winter encampment, and historic homes connected to the 1862 battle. Visitors may watch an introductory video and walk through interpretive exhibits in the visitor center, walk through the interpretive trail at Zollicoffer Park, and travel the 10-stop driving tour that guides visitors from the visitor center down to the shore of Lake Cumberland and then around to the mill site south of Lake Cumberland.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia) — Created by Congress in 1940 and added to the national park system in 1955, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park preserves, protects, and interprets the geological “doorway to the west”—the Cumberland Gap—through the southern Appalachian Mountains, together with the natural, historic, and cultural features that have made the area integral to and symbolic of centuries of American history. The park ranges from 1 to 4 miles in width and stretches 20 miles across four counties in three states. The park serves nearly 900,000 visitors each year who use the 85 miles of foot and horse trails and five backcountry camping areas.

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (Kentucky, Tennessee) — The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area was established in 1968 to preserve the free-flowing conditions of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and its tributaries; to enhance water quality; to provide diverse recreational opportunities; and to protect the unique scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the area, including the predominantly underdeveloped and natural character of the gorge. The national recreation area encompasses approximately 125,000 acres of north-central Tennessee and southeastern Kentucky along one of the largest remaining free-flowing rivers in southeastern United States. Evidence of the area's human history ranges from thousands of rockshelters, settlements, farmsteads, mining sites, logging

camp, and other sites that reflect the region's history and culture. The national recreational area offers land- and water-based recreation, including hiking, kayaking, rafting, canoeing, camping, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (multiple states) — The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail follows the historic outbound and inbound routes of the 1803–1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition. The 4,900-mile route from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to the Pacific Ocean passes through 16 states. In Kentucky, the route follows the Ohio River and touches the northern-most part of the study area in Boyd County.

National Historic Landmarks

The six national historic landmarks in the Kentucky Wildlands study area illustrate the state's history of colonial settlement, the Civil War, and efforts to better rural life through education and medical services.

Fort Boonesborough Site (Madison County) — A frontier fort founded by Daniel Boone and his men on April 1, 1775, Fort Boonesborough is one of the best-preserved archeological sites of early British colonial westward expansion during the Revolutionary period. Boone traveled into Kentucky to cut a road in an illegal colonial settlement attempt at the behest of the Transylvania Land Company. The district also acted as a military outpost during the Revolutionary War, a tobacco inspection point after the war, a post office, and a locally important outpost until 1820. The site was designated a national historic landmark in 1996 and includes the Fort Ancient site—an occupation site dating to 1400 CE, archeological remains of the Fort Boonesborough stockade, foundations of residential structures and springs, and tobacco warehouses. Kentucky State Parks manages Fort Boonesborough State Park and offers the reconstruction of a working fort with resident artisans who perform craft demonstrations.

Lincoln Hall, Berea College (Berea, Madison County) — The administrative center of Berea College, Lincoln Hall was constructed in 1887 and designated a national historic landmark in 1974 for the college's role as the first school of higher education in the nation to provide a racially integrated educational environment. Founded by John Fee in 1855, the school educated Black and White students together until 1904, when the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Berea v. Kentucky* upheld state law forcing the college to segregate. Lincoln Hall is part of the current Berea College campus and serves as the home of the president's office and administrative functions.

Middle Creek Battlefield (Prestonburg, Floyd County) — The site of the Battle of Middle Creek was designated a national historic landmark in 1992. Fought on January 10, 1862, the Battle of Middle Creek—along with the Battle of Mill Springs—helped break the Confederate line in Kentucky and provided a boost to Northern morale. The victory is also significant as a milestone in James A. Garfield's career, pushing the Ohio politician onto a national stage that would lead to the presidency in 1881. Middle Creek National Battlefield is open to the public, and the Middle Creek Battlefield Foundation has developed a Confederate interpretive loop trail, a Union interpretive loop trail, and an information kiosk with historical depictions of the battlefield and the broader Civil War in eastern Kentucky.

Pine Mountain Settlement School (Bledsoe, Harlan County) — Founded in 1913, the Pine Mountain Settlement School represented the progressive movement’s attempt to extend the urban settlement house model into Appalachian coal country. The school operated as a boarding school for elementary-age children before being converted into a boarding high school in 1930. The school also housed the headquarters for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Travelling Libraries pack horse library program. During the 1970s, the institution began to focus more on environmental education. The historic campus, which includes 26 historic buildings on over 800 acres, was designated a national historic landmark in 1991. Today, the settlement school operates as a nonprofit focusing on the stewardship of the natural, agricultural, human, and built environment through community development, environmental education, sustainability, and Appalachian culture and heritage.

Wendover (Frontier Nursing Service Headquarters) (Hyden, Leslie County) — Built in 1925, Wendover was home of the Frontier Nursing Service, an organization created by Mary Breckinridge to bring professional midwife services and maternity care to rural America. Breckinridge, a native of Tennessee, trained as a midwife in Europe and decided to try and duplicate the success of Scottish community care clinics in her home country. Breckinridge chose to work in Eastern Kentucky because of the region’s inaccessibility, hoping that any inroads would be able to be duplicated in anywhere else in the United States. In 1926, the Wendover opened its doors as the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies, serving as a private philanthropic organization and hospital. By 1930, Breckinridge expanded the organization’s care into six outpost nursing centers across Leslie and Clay Counties that together served an area of approximately 700 square miles. In 1939, the Frontier Nursing Service opened the first school of nurse midwifery in the United States. The building was designated a national historic landmark in 1991 for its associations with medical education and public health. In 2021, Frontier Nursing University moved to a newly constructed educational campus in Versailles, Kentucky and donated the Wendover property to Leslie County Betterment, Inc. Wendover Preservation Inc. has plans to use the site for rentals, public programming, and events.

Kentucky State Historic Sites

Two state historic sites managed by Kentucky Department of Parks interpret 18th-century European exploration and colonization. A third state historic site is now managed by Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site (Barbourville, Knox County) — Dr. Thomas Walker, a Virginian land speculator, organized and led the 1750 expedition into what is now the commonwealth of Kentucky almost two decades before Daniel Boone’s westward travels. Walker is credited with naming the Cumberland Gap and Cumberland River in honor of the Duke of Cumberland during his travels. Between April 13 and April 30, 1750, Walker and his party of five other Virginians explored the area surrounding the gap, constructed a 12-foot by 8-foot cabin, broke ground, and planted corn to claim the land for the Loyal Land Company under the Virginia Colony’s corn rights laws. The crew departed at the end of April 1750, and Walker never returned to the Cumberland Gap area. In 1922, a replica of the 1750 cabin was constructed on the assumed site of the Walker expedition cabin as a memorial to the party’s accomplishments. The site was dedicated a Kentucky State Shrine in 1931. Today, the cabin is

part of the 12-acre Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site that also includes two primitive campsites, basketball courts, a mini golf course, and picnic shelters.

Fort Boonesborough State Park (Madison, Madison County) — Located on the west bank of the Kentucky River, Fort Boonesborough State Park protects and interprets the site of Daniel Boone’s 1775 settlement and fortification. The park includes a reconstruction of the fort and offers history programs in conjunction with the nonprofit Fort Boonesborough Foundation that illustrate the skills needed to survive in pioneer Kentucky. The state park also houses the Kentucky River Museum in a former lock operator’s home. The museum interprets early 1900s commerce and life along the river.

White Hall State Historic Site (Richmond, Madison County) — The 10,000-square foot Italianate mansion was home of Cassius Marcellus Clay, a 19th-century politician and abolitionist who served as Abraham Lincoln’s Minister to Russia. The home was donated to the State of Kentucky in 1968, restored by the state, and opened to the public in 1971. The site is now managed by Eastern Kentucky University as a museum and event venue.

National Register of Historic Places

More than 400 properties are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in the expanded, 44-county study area, 38 of which are listed at a national level of significance. Ranging from prehistoric mound sites to 20th-century commercial districts, NRHP properties in Eastern Kentucky illustrate local, state, and national historic trends in settlement, architecture, community development, transportation, education, industry, and more.

Many national register-listed sites are part of or represent multiple resource areas (MRAs). Multiple resource areas—which are now called multiple property submissions (MPSs)—provide historical contexts that can be used to support multiple thematically related properties as individual listings. For reference, NRHP properties in the study area support the following multiple resource areas/multiple property submissions:

- Civil War Monuments of Kentucky MPS (Bath, Pulaski County)
- Kentucky’s National Guard facilities MPS (Boyd, Estill, Madison, Pulaski, Whitley Counties)
- Ashland MRA (Boyd County)
- Jackson MRA (Breathitt County)
- Prehistoric Rock Art Sites in Kentucky MPS (Carter, Clay, Estill, Jackson, Lee, Menifee, Powell Counties)
- Prestonsburg MPS (Floyd County)
- Johnson County MRA (Johnson County)
- Corbin MRA (Knox County)

- Kentucky State Tuberculosis Hospitals, 1946–1950 MRA (Laurel County)
- Louisa MRA (Lawrence County)
- Early Stone Buildings of Central Kentucky Thematic Resources (Madison County)
- Madison County MRA (Madison County)
- Richmond MRA (Madison County)
- Pikeville PRA (Pike County)
- Pulaski County MRA (Pulaski County)
- Civil War Era National Cemeteries MPS (Pulaski County)
- Kentucky WPA Stone Voting Houses in Rowan County MPS (Rowan County)
- Corbin MRA (Whitley County)

Preserve America Communities¹⁰²

Administered by the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, the Preserve America program is a federal initiative to encourage and support community efforts to preserve cultural and natural heritage. Preserve America Communities recognize communities that protect and celebrate their heritage by using their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization. Designated Preserve America Communities are eligible for Preserve America grants and recognition that encourages visitors to appreciate their local historic resources through education and heritage tourism. The 14 designated Preserve America Communities in the study area are shown in table 9.

Table 9. Designated Preserve American Communities in the Study Area

Preserve America Community	Date Designated
Ashland (Boyd County)	April 2004
Barbourville (Knox County)	August 2004
Benham (Harlan County)	April 2005
Cumberland (Harlan County)	November 2006
Harlan (Harlan County)	August 2005
Letcher County	July 2007
London (Laurel County)	June 2005
Lynch (Harlan County)	November 2005
Middlesboro (Bell County)	December 2014
Morehead (Rowan County)	August 2004

102 "Preserve America Communities," *Advisory Council on Historic Preservation*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.achp.gov/preserve-america/preserve-america-communities>.

Preserve America Community	Date Designated
Mt. Vernon (Rockcastle County)	July 2007
Pikeville (Pike County)	April 2005
Pineville (Bell County)	April 2005
Richmond (Madison County)	April 2004

SELECT RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The study area, largely referred to as the Kentucky Wildlands by tourism organizations and local residents, is known for the abundant recreation resources collectively preserved by private owners, cities and counties, state, and federal. These resources include several of the select cultural and natural resources. Many publicly managed natural sites contribute to a strategic assemblage of resources supporting a determination of national importance. Examples of these sites follow.

National Park Service

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (Bell and Harlan Counties). Established in 1940 at the geologic “doorway to the west,” Cumberland Gap National Historical Park sits on the boundary of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia and protects the natural, historic, and cultural features have made the area integral to and symbolic of centuries of American history. The park includes scenic views, unique rock formations, waterfalls, and a trail system for exploring the park’s 24,000 acres. The Hindsley Settlement in Bell County provides visitors a glimpse into the self-sufficient, farming community lifestyle associated with Appalachia.

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (Whitely County). This park was established in 1968 to preserve the free-flowing condition of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and its tributaries to enhance water quality, provide diverse recreational opportunities, and protect the unique scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the area, including the predominantly undeveloped and natural character of the gorge. The park includes 125,000 acres of rugged terrain in the Cumberland Plateau featuring a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.

Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument (Wayne and Pulaski Counties). This park was established in 2020 to preserve and interpret the nationally significant historic resources associated with the 1862 Battle of Mill Springs, the first major US victory in the western theater of the Civil War. The park includes three discontinuous areas: the battlefield, the Beech Grove fortified encampment, and the Mill Springs fortified ferry landing site.

US Forest Service

Daniel Boone National Forest (Bath, Clay, Estill, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe Counties). Established in 1937 as the Cumberland National Forest, Daniel Boone National Forest includes 708,000 acres of federally owned land within a

2.1-million-acre proclamation boundary. The national forest, which includes property in 20 Eastern Kentucky counties, protect the rugged mountain landscape that surrounds the Licking River, Kentucky River, and Cumberland River and is split between a wide strip of land bordering the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau and the Redbird Purchase to the east of the Cumberland Plateau. The national forest includes approximately 100 developed recreation areas and 600 miles of multiuse trails that together welcome over 1 million visitors per year. Developed recreation sites can accommodate 15,830 visitors at one time, while others can enjoy dispersed activities including hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, boating, and horseback riding.¹⁰³

Jefferson National Forest (Letcher, Pike Counties). President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Jefferson National Forest in 1936 to conserve hardwood forests in the southern Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. While most of the 1.5 million acres administered by the US Forest Service as the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests lie in the state of Virginia, Jefferson National Forest extends 742 acres into Letcher County and 115 acres into Pike County.

¹⁰³ US Department of Agriculture-Forest Service, *Daniel Boone National Forest Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement*, 2003, <https://books.google.com/books?id=46Q2AQAAMAJ>.

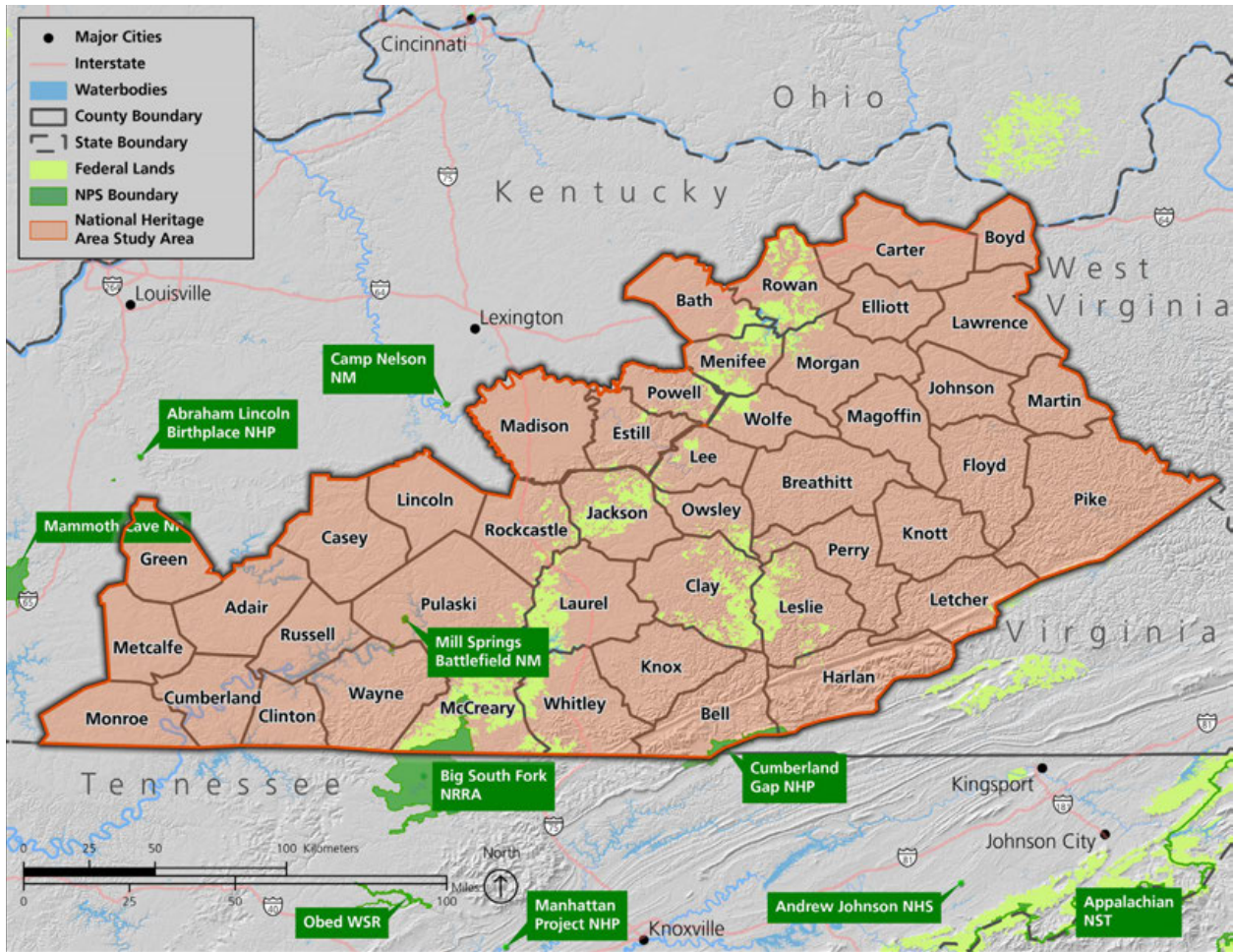


FIGURE 6. FEDERAL LANDS IN AND NEAR THE STUDY AREA

Kentucky State Parks

In the study area, the Kentucky Department of Parks manages 17 resort or recreational parks, as well as three historical parks. (Kentucky state historical parks are individually described above as part of “Select Cultural Resources.”) Table 10 lists state resorts, and table 11 lists recreational parks in the study area.

The mission of Kentucky State Parks is to provide a sustainable system of parks that delivers quality programs, amenities, and services for public use. The intent is to create memorable experiences and a sense of place, contribute to the economic growth of the commonwealth, and preserve the historic and natural integrity and traditions of parks for existing and future generations.

Table 10. Kentucky State Resort Parks in the Study Area

Kentucky State Resort Park	Location	Acres	Description
Buckhorn Lake State Park Resort	Perry County (Buckhorn, Kentucky)	623	The park features the lake with opportunities for cottage rentals, hiking, swimming, fishing, and boating.
Carter Caves State Resort Park	Carter County (Olive Hill, Kentucky)	1,850	The park features caverns with trails that lead to natural bridges, arches, sinkholes, cliffs, and a boxed canyon. The park has opportunities for paddling, hiking, horseback trails, and fishing.
Cumberland Falls State Resort Park	McCreary and Whitley Counties (Corbin, Kentucky)	1,776	The park features Cumberland Falls with trails leading to different views of the falls, along with camping, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding.
Dale Hollow Lake	Cumberland County (Burkesville, Kentucky)	3,536	The park features recreational opportunities such as biking, birding, boating, swimming, caving, fishing, hiking, and golfing.
Jenny Wiley State Resort Park	Floyd County (Prestonsburg, Kentucky)	1,495	The park features lodging, camping, biking, boating, fishing, and hiking
Lake Cumberland State Resort Park	Russel County (Jamestown, Kentucky)	3,648	One of the larger state parks, this park features opportunities for lodging and camping, boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, and birding.
Natural Bridge State Resort Park	Powell County (Slade, Kentucky)	2,250	The park features a natural bridge with lodging, camping, hiking, and fishing
Pine Mountain State Resort Park	Bell County (Pineville, Kentucky)	1,555	The park is the “First” Kentucky State Park with lodging and hiking around the Red River Gorge Area.

Note: Data retrieved from KyGovMaps Open Data Portal (<https://opengisdata.ky.gov/>) and information maintained by the Kentucky Department of Parks.

Table 11. Kentucky State Recreational Parks in the Study Area

State Recreational Parks	County	Acres	Description
Carr Creek State Park	Knott County (Sassafras, Kentucky)	44	The park features a campground, water activities that include boating and fishing and a marsh ecosystem that is unusual for Eastern Kentucky.
Dawkins Line Rail Trail	Johnson, Magoffin, and Breathitt Counties (Swamp Branch, Kentucky)	351	The trail features 36 miles stretching from Johnson County to Breathitt County, passing through the Gun Creek Tunnel for biking, hiking, and horseback riding.
Fort Boonesborough	Madison, Clark Counties (Richmond, Kentucky)	161	A small state park providing recreational access for swimming, birding, boating access to the Kentucky River, camping, hiking, and fishing.

State Recreational Parks	County	Acres	Description
General Burnside Island	Pulaski (Burnside, Kentucky)	430	The park features an 18-hole golf course and a 102-site campground. Other recreational options include fishing and boating on Lake Cumberland, and picnicking.
Grayson Lake State Park	Carter and Elliot Counties (Olive Hill, Kentucky)	1,512	The park features 1,512 acres for camping, boating, hiking, and fishing at the lake.
Kingdom Come State Park	Harlan and Letcher Counties (Cumberland, Kentucky)	1,467	The park features 1,283 acres of wilderness, various overlooks, camping, hiking, fishing, biking, and boating.
Paintsville Lake State Park	Johnson County (Staffordsville, Kentucky)	242	The park features cliffs and coves along the shoreline for camping, boating, and fishing.
Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail	Pike and Letcher Counties (Whitesburg, Kentucky)	198	The trail is still under construction. Once complete, it will provide primitive camping and backpacking and hiking from Breaks Interstate Park to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park.
Yatesville Lake State Park	Lawrence County (Louisa, Kentucky)	1,440	The park features camping, boating, hiking, and fishing around the lake

Note: Data retrieved from KyGovMaps Open Data Portal (<https://opengisdata.ky.gov/>) and information maintained by the Kentucky Department of Parks.

Wildlife Management Areas

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources coordinates more than 85 wildlife management areas (WMAs) for conservation and public use. While the majority of the wildlife management areas are coordinated on publicly owned lands, a few are private. Wildlife management areas are categorized by the management levels in the area, with “high” intensity management including habitat work like food plots, “moderate” intensity management providing some active habitat management, and “low” intensity areas reflecting more natural, hands-off conditions. Hunting is also permitted on some other state-managed land including national forests, state forests, and privately owned access areas.

Table 12. Kentucky Wildlife Management Areas

Wildlife Management Area	County	Management Level	Acres
Asher Hunting Access Area	Bell, Harlan	N/A	13,144 acres
Ashland WMA	Lee	Low	2,507 acres
Beaver Creek WMA	McCreary, Pulaski	High	17,751 acres
Betterment Wildlife Hunting Access Area	Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Perry, Pike	N/A	8,176 acres
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area	McCreary	N/A	30,293 acres
Blue Grass Army Depot	Madison County	N/A	14,519 acres

Wildlife Management Area	County	Management Level	Acres
Boone Forestlands WMA	Bell, Clay, Harlan, Leslie	Moderate	31,659 acres
Buck Creek WMA	Pulaski	Moderate	850 acres
Buckhorn Lake WMA	Leslie, Perry	Low	3,570 acres
Burchell-Beech Creek WMA	Clay	Low	1,241 acres
C.F. Ataya WMA	Bell, Knox, Leslie	Moderate	11,614 acres
Cane Creek WMA	Laurel	Moderate	6,677 acres
Carr Creek Lake WMA	Knott	Low	2,880 acres
Clay WMA	Bath, Fleming, Nicholas	High	8,980 acres
Cranks Creek WMA	Harlan	Low	2,155 acres
Czar Hunting Access Area	Floyd, Johnson, Martin	N/A	15,093 acres
Daniel Boone National Forest	Bath, Clay, Estill, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe	N/A	638,489 acres
Dewey Lake WMA	Floyd	Moderate	9,174 acres
Ed Mabry-Laurel Gorge WMA	Elliott	Low	1,486 acres
Elk Forest WMA	Bell, Clay, Knox, Leslie	Moderate	16,586 acres
Elk Horn Coal Hunting Access Area	Floyd, Knott, Letcher, Pike	N/A	20,117 acres
Fishtrap Lake WMA	Pike	Low	13,140 acres
Fortner-Davis WMA	Bell	Low	1,358 acres
Grayson Lake WMA	Carter, Elliott	High	8,026 acres
Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA	Harlan, Letcher	Low	4,848 acres
Hidden Valley Training Area	Powell	N/A	523 acres
Hoskins WMA	Harlan, Leslie	Low	5,299 acres
Jefferson National Forest	Letcher, Pike	N/A	857 acres
Jenny Wiley State Resort Park	Floyd	N/A	1,415 acres
Kentenia State Forest	Harlan	N/A	4,080 acres
Kentucky Ridge Forest WMA	Bell	Moderate	3,504 acres
Kentucky Ridge State Forest	Bell	Moderate	11,792 acres
Lake Cumberland WMA	Clinton, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Wayne	Moderate	38,779 acres
Legacy LLC Hunting Access Area	Floyd, Martin, Pike	N/A	40,245 acres
Martins Fork Lake WMA	Harlan	Low	764 acres

Wildlife Management Area	County	Management Level	Acres
Martins Fork WMA and State Natural Area	Harlan	Low	1,599 acres
Meadow Creek WMA	Wayne	Low	232 acres
Mill Creek WMA	Jackson	Moderate	13,011 acres
Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA	Madison	Moderate	1,847 acres
Paul Van Booven WMA	Breathitt	Moderate	2,287 acres
Pike Elkhorn Hunting Access Area	Floyd, Letcher, Pike	N/A	15,040 acres
Ping-Sinking Valley WMA	Pulaski	Moderate	806 acres
Pioneer Weapons WMA	Bath, Menifee	Low	7,732 acres
Redbird WMA	Clay, Leslie	Low	24,006 acres
RH Group Hunting Access Area	Floyd, Letcher, Magoffin, McCreary, Pike	N/A	20,191 acres
Robinson Forest WMA	Breathitt, Perry	Low	2,003 acres
Rockcastle River WMA	Pulaski	Moderate	2,924 acres
Ross Creek WMA	Estill, Lee	Low	935 acres
Shillalah Creek WMA	Bell, Harlan	Low	2,534 acres
Stone Mountain WMA and State Natural Area	Harlan	Low	1,017 acres
Sunny Brook WMA	Rowan	Low	142 acres
Twin Knobs Campground	Rowan	N/A	686 acres
Tygarts State Forest	Carter	N/A	939 acres
Wells Hunting Access Area	Breathitt, Knott, Leslie, Perry	N/A	6,472 acres
Yatesville Lake State Park and Lawrence County Recreation Area	Lawrence	N/A	2,007 acres
Yatesville Lake WMA	Lawrence	Moderate	13,193 acres
Zilpo Campground	Bath	N/A	221 acres

Note: Data retrieved from Ky GovMaps Open Data Portal (<https://opengisdata.ky.gov/>); information maintained by Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife (<https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/WMA-Management-Levels.aspx>).

Trails

A number of governmental agencies and local organizations maintain a network of trails, routes, and other linear pathways that support recreational use in the study area.

Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail

The first linear Kentucky state park is under development. Once complete, it will span 120 miles from Breaks Interstate Park to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park and pass

through six state parks and nature preserves. The trail, which is designed to accommodate long-distance hiking, plans to offer primitive camping shelters every 14 miles.

Kentucky Trail Towns¹⁰⁴

The Kentucky Trail Town program highlights communities that have made a commitment to share local outdoor opportunities, culture, history, and stories with visitors. Managed by the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, the program includes 24 towns across the state that provide recreational access to hundreds of miles of land and water trails and supporting visitor amenities. The following are designated trail towns in the study area:

- Olive Hill (Carter County)
- Morehead (Rowan County)
- Royalton (Magoffin County)
- Slade (Powell County)
- Estill Twin Cities: Ravenna and Irvine (Estill County)
- Berea (Madison County)
- McKee (Jackson County)
- London (Laurel County)
- Livingston (Rockcastle County)
- Elkhorn City (Pike County)
- Hazard (Perry County)
- Manchester (Clay County)
- Stearns (McCreary County)
- Harlan Tri-Cities: Cumberland, Benham, and Lynch (Harlan County)

Mainstreet America Network¹⁰⁵

The Main Street America Network, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has worked to revitalize small towns, mid-sized communities, and urban commercial districts for over 40 years. Communities that are members of the program work for locally owned, locally driven prosperity that transforms local economies and improves

104 "Kentucky Trail Towns," *Kentucky Tourism*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/things-to-do/outdoors/trail-towns>.

105 "Kentucky Main Street Program," *Kentucky Heritage Council*, accessed September 2023, <https://heritage.ky.gov/community/main-street/Pages/overview.aspx>.

the overall quality of life through preservation-based economic development. The following communities in the study area are accredited or affiliated members of the program:

- Downtown Morehead (Rowan County)
- Beattyville Main Street/Downtown Beattyville Alliance (Lee County)
- Pikeville Main Street (Pike County)
- London Downtown Inc. (Laurel County)
- City of Williamsburg (Whitley County)
- Middlesboro Main Street (Bell County)
- Main Street Pineville (Bell County)

National Recreation Trails¹⁰⁶

Created by Congress in 1968, the national trails system includes more than 1,300 national recreation trails that provide land- and water-based recreational opportunities on federal, state, and local land across the country. Economic development is supported through tourism and promoting health and wellness through outdoor recreational opportunities. The following designated national recreational trails are in the study area:

- **Sheltopee Trace.** Created in 1976, the Sheltopee Trace runs 269 miles from Leather Wood Trail Head in Big South Fort National River and Recreation Area in Tennessee to northern Rowan County.
- **Grayson Lake Nature Trail.** The 1-mile US Corps of Engineers trail follows the Little Sandy River through ravine and mature woodlands.
- **Mary Ingles Trail System (Lawrence County).** The 3.5-mile backcountry trail in Lawrence County was established in 2001.
- **Red River Gorge (Powell County).** Named a national trail in 1978, the 34 miles of trail in the Red River Gorge are managed by the US Forest Service.
- **Natural Bridge Trail.** Built in the 1890s as a Lexington and Eastern Railroad bridge, the 0.5-mile trail was added to the national trail system in 1983.
- **Paintsville Lake Kiwanis Trail.** This trail is approximately 1.6-mile long and is maintained by the state.
- **Jenny Wiley Trail.** Designated in 1980, the 213-mile Jenny Wiley Trail originally travelled across Eastern Kentucky. Now the trail has been reduced to 4.5 miles that are maintained by the state in Jenny Wiley State Park.

106 "American Trails, National Recreation Trails & National Water Trails Database," *National Recreation Trails & National Water Trails*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.nrtapplication.org/trails?p=NRTDatabase/index.html>.

- **Wilderness Road.** The 2.2-mile trail follows a route through the Cumberland Gap that was taken by Daniel Boone in 1775.
- **Eagle Falls Trail.** A 1-mile trail in McCreary County, the Eagle Falls Trail was added to the national trail system in 1982.

Blue Water Trails

The hundreds of miles of natural water courses that flow through the study area provides opportunities for boaters, paddlers, canoers, and kayakers. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources maintains a series of articles and videos to promote Blue Water Trails, which all are publicly accessible and managed by public recreation agencies. These articles highlight more than 30 float opportunities across the state that also offer sport fishing, recreation, and local history. The study area contains all or portions of 13 Blue Water Trails, listed in table 13.

Table 13. Blue Water Trails in the Study Area

Blue Water Trail	County	Total Linear Miles
Big South Fork	McCreary, Pulaski, Wayne	52.9
Cumberland River Below the Falls	McCreary and Whitley	15.7
Cumberland River Tailwater	Clinton, Cumberland, Russell	15.9
Kentucky River, Pool 10	Estill, Madison	25.5
Kentucky River, Pool 8	Madison	8.8
Kentucky River, Pool 9	Madison	18.3
Levisa Fork	Pike	8.6
North Fork Cumberland River	McCreary, Whitley	16.8
Red River	Menifee, Powell, Wolfe	21.1
Rockcastle River	Laurel, Pulaski, Rockcastle	42.2
Russell Fork	Pike	7.7
Tygarts Creek	Carter	21.5
Upper Green River	Green	25.7

Note: Data retrieved from KyGovMaps Open Data Portal and information maintained by the Federal Highway Administration, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and the National Scenic Byway Foundation, <https://transportation.ky.gov/LocalPrograms/Pages/Scenic-Byways.aspx>.

Scenic Byways

Scenic Byways may have state- or national-level recognition and designation.

National Scenic Byways — The National Scenic Byways Program is a voluntary, community-based program administered through the Federal Highway Administration to recognize, protect, and promote America’s most outstanding roads. The intent of the program is not to solely focus on the promotion of roads; it is also intended to assist communities in balancing economic development with resource conservation.

To apply for a national scenic byway designation, a road must first be distinguished as a state, Tribal, or federal agency scenic byway (described below). Once this designation has been established, an application must be made to the national program through the state department of transportation. Every state has a state scenic byways program.

State Scenic Byways — In Kentucky, the state scenic byway system and information pertaining to all scenic byways in the state is maintained by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. By definition, state scenic byways are “roadsides or viewsheds with scenic, natural, cultural, historical, archaeological, and/or recreational value worthy of preservation, restoration, protection, and enhancement that meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials guidelines for highways and are state maintained as part of the state Primary Road System.”¹⁰⁷

The Kentucky State Scenic Byway system is a cooperative effort of local government, private citizens, and organizations working together to protect the state’s natural scenic resources, promote tourism, foster associated economic development, and maximize the potential of little-traveled or bypassed roads. To apply for a Kentucky State Byway designation, nonprofit organizations, byways groups, tourism departments, and local governments or state agencies must make an application to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

All or portions of 11 national and state scenic byways travel through the Kentucky Wildlands study area and are listed in table 14.

Table 14. National and Scenic Byways in the Study Area

Name	Counties in Study Area	Description
National Scenic Byways		
Country Music Highway	Letcher, Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Boyd, and Greenup Counties	The byway includes 144.1 miles in Eastern Kentucky recognizing the sights and sounds of the region.
Red River Gorge Scenic Byway	Menifee, Powell, Wolfe Counties	The byway includes 46 miles running through the Red River Gorge, a landscape that has been recognized as a national natural landmark, national wild and scenic river, and national geological area.
Wilderness Road Heritage Highway	Bell, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle, Madison Counties	The byway runs 93.8 miles tracing a historic route through the Cumberland Gap into the center of present-day Kentucky.
State Scenic Byways		
Cordell Hull	Monroe	This 51.6-mile byway begins at the entrance of Mammoth Cave National Park and ends at the Tennessee boundary near the Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Park.

107 "Scenic Byways," *Kentucky Transportation Cabinet*, accessed September 2023, <https://transportation.ky.gov/LocalPrograms/Pages/Scenic-Byways.aspx>.

Name	Counties in Study Area	Description
Cumberland Cultural Heritage Highway	Cumberland, Clinton, Wayne, McCreary, Whitley, Metcalfe, Adair, Taylor, Green, Russel, Casey, Lincoln Counties	The 197.5-mile byway extends across southern Kentucky connecting Lake Cumberland, Dale Hollow Lake, and Green River Lake.
Kentucky 160-Black Mountain Road	Harlan County	The byway includes 10.34 miles through the towns of Benham and Clay, up to Black Mountain, and to the Kentucky-Virginia state line.
Kentucky 89	Rockcastle, Johnson Counties	The byway is a 35-mile route following KY 89 through Rockcastle and Johnson Counties.
Pine Mountain Road	Letcher County	The byway extends 8.1 miles following US 119 in Letcher County to views of Pine Mountain and Little Shepherd Trail.
Ridge Top	Estill County	The byway follows KY 89 bisecting Estill County from the Jackson County line to the Clark County line.
The Zollicoffer-Thomas Scenic Byway	Pulaski, Wayne Counties	The 10.3-mile byway follows the Battle of Mill Springs and connects units of Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument.

Themed Itineraries

- **Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc.** PRIDE maintains various travel itineraries of sites throughout the study area that focus on cultural, natural, or recreational interests. The itineraries are typically spread over three days with options for restaurants and lodging.
- **Kentucky Wildlands Waterfall Trail.** PRIDE recently announced the launch of this trail that highlights 17 waterfalls in Eastern Kentucky, which includes trip planning logistics to navigate through waterfall in the Kentucky Wildlands area.

ADDITIONAL STUDY AREA RESOURCES

Types of resources described in this chapter are not meant to be exhaustive and/or definitive but highlight the study area’s richness and the possibility of supporting a national heritage area. Historic buildings, geologic features, and public lands represent the places and resources. Museums, historical societies, archives, zoos, and nature centers build from these resources and provide additional opportunities to document and interpret the natural and cultural heritage of Eastern Kentucky.

Post-secondary Educational Institutions

The public and subject matter experts repeatedly expressed the importance of education’s contributions to Eastern Kentucky’s history and culture. Many of the region’s existing post-

secondary educational institutions provide programs and opportunities for locals, students, and visitors to better understand and experience what makes Eastern Kentucky a unique physical and cultural landscape.

- **Eastern Kentucky University (Madison County).** While the main campus of Eastern Kentucky University is located in Richmond, the university is a regional comprehensive institution that also maintains branch campuses in Corbin (Whitley County), Hazard (Perry County), Lancaster (Garrard County), and Manchester (Clay County). Eastern Kentucky University offers an undergraduate minor and certificate in Appalachian studies that allows students to take interdisciplinary courses to analyze Appalachia as a place, identity, and academic discipline.
- **Morehead State University (Rowan County).** This public university was founded as Morehead Normal School in 1887. The university currently enrolls about 8,800 undergraduate and post-graduate students.
- **Alice Lloyd College (Knott County).** This private work college was cofounded by Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd and June Buchanan in 1923 as Caney Junior College. Approximately 550 students are enrolled in the school's 18 major degree programs and 8 preprofessional programs.
- **Berea College (Madison County).** A private liberal arts college, Berea College was founded in 1855 as the first college in the Southern United States to be coeducational and racially integrated.
- **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Bell County).** Established in 1926 as a private bible college, Clear Creek is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and provides education focusing on Christian service.
- **Frontier Nursing University.** Established in 1939 as the Frontier Graduate School of Midwifery, the college was based in Hyden (Leslie County) until 2020, when it moved to a larger campus in Versailles, Kentucky. Today, the private nursing institution serves 2,500 students and was the first school of nurse-midwifery to offer distance education courses.
- **Kentucky Christian University (Carter County).** This private Christian university started in 1919 and enrolls approximately 500 students.
- **Kentucky Mountain Bible College (Breathitt County).** Started in 1931, the private bible college is affiliated with the Kentucky Mountain Holiness Association and offers a bachelor's degree in religion and an associate's degree in bible/biblical studies.
- **University of Pikeville (Pike County).** Founded in 1889 by the Presbyterian Church, University of Pikeville includes the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine. University of Pikeville is one of the smallest colleges in the United States to have a medical school and primarily recruits medical students from Eastern Kentucky to address the shortage of medical care in rural Appalachia. It serves approximately 2,400 students.

- **Union College (Knox County).** Founded in 1879 and affiliated with the United Methodist Church, Union College offers bachelor’s and master’s degrees to its 1,200 enrolled students.
- **University of the Cumberlands (Whitley County).** Founded in 1889 as part of the Kentucky Baptist Churches’ plan to provide higher education in the Eastern Kentucky mountains, University of the Cumberlands enrolls approximately 17,000 students, 14,700 of which are pursuing graduate degrees.
- **Kentucky Community and Technical College System.** This system includes 16 community and technical college across the state that reach over 70 campuses. The following six colleges are spread across the study area:
 - Ashland Community and Technical College: Boyd County
 - Big Sandy Community and Technical College: Paintsville (Johnson County), Prestonsburg (Floyd County), Pikeville (Pike County), Hager Hill (Johnson County)
 - Hazard Community and Technical College: Hazard (Perry County), Jackson (Breathitt County), Hyden (Leslie County), Hindman (Knott County)
 - Maysville Community College: Morehead (Rowan County)
 - Somerset Community College: Pulaski County
 - Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College: Harlan County

CONCLUSION

Given the number of resources in the Eastern Kentucky study area and the physical nature of the nationally distinctive landscape, the study team finds that there are enough natural, cultural, and historic resources to support the efficient management of such resources as a national heritage area. Existing NPS programs, including national historic landmarks, national natural landmarks, national recreation trails, and National Register of Historic Places sites recognize resources that retain integrity and support the distinctive Eastern Kentucky landscape. Kentucky state parks and state, regional, and local conservation and preservation highlight resources that convey the unique natural and cultural history of the region. Local preservation and conservation efforts have bolstered the integrity of the broad cultural landscape and help create the setting of the Kentucky Wildlands.

Chapter 4

Criteria for Evaluating a Potential National Heritage Area



CHAPTER 4: CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A POTENTIAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

In the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the National Park Service lists 10 criteria to be used in the evaluation of potential candidates for national heritage area (NHA) designation. These criteria have been used to inform congressional authorizing committees when considering introduced national heritage area designation legislation. Eligible study areas are expected to meet all 10 criteria to be considered for designation. The legislation directing this study (P.L. 116-94, Section 1801, Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act) also included eight requirements to be addressed in the feasibility study. As illustrated in table 1, these criteria closely align with the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*; therefore, the following analysis is organized by the NPS program guidelines.

While this study is being transmitted to Congress after the passage of the National Heritage Area Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-339, Section 120103), which laid out legislated criteria for feasibility studies, the study area is being evaluated against the requirements of P.L. 116-94 and the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, as they were in place when this study was authorized by Congress in 2019. See table 2 for side-by-side comparisons of how NPA criteria are described in the 2019 program guidelines, P.L. 116-94, and P.L. 117-339.

CRITERION 1

An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 1 and P.L. 117-339, Section 120103(a)(3)(A).

The region of Kentucky called “the Kentucky Wildlands” in the NHA feasibility study legislation sits on the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau. The geologic landscape of the area created the natural resources that fueled the United States’ economic development following the Civil War. The rugged terrain, defined by mountains, steep slopes, narrow valleys, seasonal streams, and dense forests containing highly diverse natural and biological resources, was first home to Native Americans who hunted, farmed, and built an extensive trade network across North America. During the 18th century, the region’s resources attracted explorers, hunters, speculators, and frontiersmen and frontierswomen who created tightknit communities that practiced self-reliance and sustainability. Although Eastern Kentucky has long been characterized as physically and culturally isolated by geography and by choice, the people, products, and rich resources of Central Appalachia have directly fed national growth since the colonial period. The region and its distinctive identity are defined by its diverse resources and active communities spread across a large landscape.

The wide-reaching study area includes a mosaic of subcultures, people, ecosystems, and historic sites. Large-scale, community-driven initiatives that make heritage relevant to local needs and interests and community engagement are part of the culture and connections historically associated with the area. Potential partnerships with local entities, federal land managers, Native American Tribes, universities and colleges, area development districts, grassroots activist, and other organizations will be crucial to any potential national heritage area in Eastern Kentucky.

Establishing a national heritage area in 35 counties of Eastern Kentucky would provide additional opportunities for existing tourism and recreational sites, community organizations, educational institutions to network and collaborate on the continued conservation and interpretation of the area. Partnering with other national heritage areas that conserve and interpret the resources of Central Appalachia, including the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (Maryland, West Virginia), the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia), Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (Tennessee), National Coal Heritage Area (West Virginia), and Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (North Carolina), would provide additional opportunities to make thematic connections and broaden the impact of successful programs/organizations.

Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 1 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

CRITERION 2

The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 2 and P.L. 117-339, Section 120103(a)(3)(B).

The history and people of Eastern Kentucky are a unique and valuable part of the national story, with connections to the events that shaped the nation's political, economic, and cultural history. While Appalachia has been portrayed in mainstream culture as isolated and monolithic, Eastern Kentucky is home to a variety of subcultures and groups that together show the diversity of the region. In the face of decades of stereotypes and overgeneralizations about the folklife of the region, it is important to allow Appalachians and Kentuckians to tell the stories that are not shared through commercial cultural industries and shape how their culture is portrayed.

The region's collective memory is evident when discussing Eastern Kentucky heritage and identity. Since its inception in the 1970s, Appalachian studies has grown as an academic field that promotes oral histories as a way to diversify perspectives, share interpretive authority, and capture nuance associated with the many groups, communities, and lifeways that

contribute to the region's cultural mosaic.¹⁰⁸ Community tradition bearers are at the front line of vernacular resistance as the region continues to fight stereotypes and battle against decades of economic struggles.

Music and arts are parts of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Eastern Kentucky. The Lomax Kentucky Recordings provides free and complete digital access to the recordings of Eastern Kentucky folk artists and singers collected by Richard and Alan Lomax and Mary Barnicle during the late 1930s.¹⁰⁹ This effort is a collaborative project between Berea College Special Collections and Archives, the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center, the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, and the Association for Cultural Equity. Appalshop's Passing Pick and Bow after-school program allows nearly 100 Letcher County students a year the opportunity to learn traditional instruments as part of the free, year-round program.¹¹⁰ The Kentucky School of Bluegrass & Traditional Music at Hazard Community and Technical College trains the next generation of musicians for professional careers in the field.¹¹¹ Morehead State University's Kentucky Folk Art Center and Berea's Kentucky Artisan Center celebrate the traditional practices and skilled workmanship of folk artists and artisans. The Appalachian Artisan Center in Hindman works to develop the economy of Eastern Kentucky through arts, culture, and heritage. Programs offered by the center include the Appalachian School of Luthiery, where skilled instrument makers teach stringed instrument construction to students of all ages.

Eastern Kentucky culture and connections expand across the nation as a result of the diaspora from the mountains of eastern Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, West Virginia, and western Virginia to Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and other Midwestern economic centers in the mid-20th century. One example of the spread of Appalachian social heritage is the Eastern Kentucky Social Club. Started in 1969 by a group of African Americans in Cleveland, Ohio, to bring together individuals who previously lived and worked in Harlan County coal mining camps, the social club provided the space to connect with others and celebrate a shared cultural heritage. By 2012, the club had expanded to 15 chapters nationwide and organized annual reunions that also recognized alumni of Harlan County's Rosenwald Schools.¹¹² The social club's archives were recently acquired by the Eastern Kentucky African American Migration Project, a Southern Historical Collection initiative that prefers personal narratives and the unique cultural history of the 20th-century African Americans migration through Appalachia.¹¹³

Innovation and resourcefulness are at the heart of critical conservation efforts throughout the region. Local farmers' return to agricultural hemp as a cash crop and small-scale, family-owned farms reflect practices and lifeways common before the proliferation of coal mining in

108 John M. Glen, "The War on Poverty in Appalachia: Oran History from the 'Top down' and the 'Bottom Up,'" *The Oral History Review* 22, no. 1 (Summer 1995), 67-93, https://www.jstor.org/stable/4495357?searchText=appalachian+volunteers&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dappalachian%2Bvolunteers&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3A65e8bafac9a75ce21103c6eef12d88cb&seq=2.

109 "About the Project," *The Lomax Kentucky Recordings*, accessed August 2023, <https://lomaxky.omeka.net/about>.

110 "Passing the Pick and Bow," *WMMT* 88.7, accessed September 2023, <https://wmmt.org/projects/pick-and-bow>.

111 "KSBTM," *Hazard Community and Technical College*, accessed August 2023, <http://ksbtm.hazard.kctcs.edu/>.

112 "Collection Number 05606, Collection Title: Eastern Kentucky Social Club Collection, 1948-2014," *UNC University Libraries-Wilson Special Collections Library*, accessed September 2023, <https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/05606/>.

113 "About," *Eastern Kentucky African American Migration Project*, accessed September 2023, <https://blackappalachia.org/about/>.

the region. The Appalachian Artisan Centers Culture of Recovery project supplements traditional drug-addiction recovery with opportunities for creative expression and skill building that include art mentorship programs in various traditional arts for those looking to overcome substance abuse. Community engagement programs work to dispel stigma and build health community outside of drugs and addiction.

The study team concludes that criterion 2 of the *National Heritage Area Study Guidelines* and legislation criterion 2 are met.

CRITERION 3

The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 3 and P.L. 117-339, Section 120103(a)(3)(C)(i).

National heritage areas are a vehicle for locally initiated protection and interpretation of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. To meet criterion 3 of the NHA guidelines, a study area must have potential to increase the level and quality of heritage preservation activities.

Throughout Eastern Kentucky, the cultural and natural environment co-exist to strengthen the connections between culture, heritage, and the physical environment. The Redbird Purchase unit of Daniel Boone National Forest, which stretches over Clay, Leslie, Owsley, Perry, Harlan, and Knox Counties, illustrates the connections between natural, cultural, and historic resources in the region. In 1923, the property that would become the Redbird unit was purchased by a subsidiary of the Ford Motor Company from a coal mining company for the hardwood forest that could be used as wood wheel spokes and automotive body parts.¹¹⁴ Mary Breckinridge, the founder of the Frontier Nursing Service, advocated for the protection of Eastern Kentucky landscape and, during a 1933 visit to Washington, DC, specifically asked US Forest Service leaders to protect the headwaters of the Kentucky River and the diverse ecological communities found there. The heavily forested parcel was logged multiple times over the first half of the 20th century before the Redbird Timber Corporation sold the 60,000-acre unit to the Forest Service in 1965. Historic structures connected to the previous corporate owners and communities now support the Forest Service administration. The building that is now the Redbird ranger station was originally built by the Fordson Coal Company in 1924 as living quarters for the survey crews, engineers, and draftsmen. An airstrip constructed in the 1930s to deliver mail to the Peabody Post Office is now used as a landing site for wildland firefighting operations.¹¹⁵

Another example of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resource conservation is the revitalization of coal mine and company towns and heritage tourism sites. Stearns, Kentucky,

114 Shelly Smith Mastran and Nan Lowerre, *Mountaineers and Rangers: A History of Federal Forest Management in the Southern Appalachians, 1900-81* (Washington, DC: US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, April 1983), <http://npshistory.com/publications/usfs/region/8/history/chap7.htm>.

115 US Forest Service, "History of the Redbird Purchase Unit, Daniel Boone National Forest, 2014," https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd507274.pdf.

(McCreary County) was established as a lumber and coal company town in the 1900s; it is now considered a gateway to the Daniel Boone National Forest and Big South Fork National Recreation Area. The McCreary County Historical Society is housed in the historic Stearns Coal and Mining Company headquarters, built in 1907. The Big South Fork Scenic Railway operates 7 miles of the historic Kentucky & Tennessee Railroad route and takes passengers from Stearns to the Barthell Coal Camp.¹¹⁶ The Blue Heron Coal Mining Camp operated from 1937 until 1962 as part of the Stearns Coal and Lumber operation. The site was included in the Big South Fork National Recreation Area and re-created as an outdoor museum in the 1980s by the National Park Service. While the original buildings were removed after the mine closed or fell into a state of disrepair and deterioration in the decades following the mine's closure, the National Park Service built metal shells of the original buildings—"ghost structures"—to represent the different aspects of life in a mining company town. Visitors can navigate through the site and listen to recordings made by former residents about life during the town's heyday in the 1940s and 1950s.¹¹⁷

Communities in the study area have received recent Kentucky Certified Local Government (CLG) Program grants that support community preservation. In Boone County, a CLG grant funded research for the "African Americans of Boone County" survey initiative and produced an African American historic context for Dinsmore House. The City of Pikeville used a CLG grant to send officials to the 2022 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum and to support professional training for Pikeville's Architecture Board of Review members to improve the function of the local preservation program.

As Eastern Kentucky looks to broaden its regional economy in the 21st century, organizations that celebrate the region's natural and scenic resources and interpret the land's complex history are creating opportunities to expand the appreciation and understanding of Eastern Kentucky. Two areas set aside for study and preservation of old growth forests in the 1970s were Rock Creek Natural Area in the London District of the Daniel Boone National Forest (Laurel County) and Lilley Cornett Woods (Letcher County).¹¹⁸ Appalachia Proud is part of the statewide marketing program dedicated to promoting local, small-scale agribusinesses.

Efforts to conserve natural and scenic resources for the benefit of local communities continue. Based in Berea, the Kentucky Natural Land Trust works with federal, state, nonprofit, and private partners to protect Kentucky's wildlands. First established to save Blanton Forest (Harlan County), the commonwealth's largest old-growth forest, the Kentucky Natural Land Trust has successfully protected more than 50,000 acres to support biodiversity, climate resilience, and cultural, human, and economic health throughout eastern Kentucky as the region undergoes an economic transition that fosters recreation, tourism, and overall livability for local communities.¹¹⁹ The organization is currently working to connect existing protected areas in the 125-mile Pine Mountain Corridor (Whitley, Bell,

116 "History," *Big South Fork Scenic Railway*, accessed September 2023, <https://bsfsry.com/our-story/>.

117 National Park Service, "A Guide to the Blue Heron Community," Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, <https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/historyculture/blueheron.htm>.

118 Robert F. Collins, *A History of the Daniel Boone National Forest 1770-1970* (US Department of Agriculture Southern Region, 1975), <http://npshistory.com/publications/usfs/region/8/daniel-boone/history/chap24.htm>.

119 "Our Work," *Kentucky Natural Lands Trust*, accessed August 2023, <https://knlt.org/our-work/>.

Harlan, Letcher, Pike Counties) and encourage sustainable forest management and locally owned, environmentally compatible economic enterprises.¹²⁰ The Nature Conservancy is undertaking its largest-ever conservation effort in the Eastern United States with the Cumberland Forest Project, a 253,000-acre landscape that stretches across southwest Virginia, Tennessee, and southeastern Kentucky.¹²¹ The American Battlefield Trust has helped preserve 264 acres of the Camp Wildcat Battlefield and more than 800 acres of Mill Springs Battlefield and is actively working to preserve 20 acres of the Richmond battlefield.¹²²

There are countless conservation opportunities related to ecological restoration of former timber and mining sites in the study area. Surface mine reclamation projects recognized by the US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement as part of the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Awards program include the Big South Fork Slide repair (2022), Roger Cornett slide abatement (2019), John Bernat Slide Project (2018), Bell Central School HP AML Reclamation Project (2017), Lower Rock Creek Watershed Restoration Project (2012), and Spewing Camp Branch Refuse AML Project (2005).¹²³ The Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition helps secure funding for abandoned mine land reclamation projects across the region.¹²⁴ Elk were reintroduced in the commonwealth in 1997, and now the Kentucky herd numbers approximately 10,000. Jenny Wiley State Park offers tours specifically designed to view the animals.¹²⁵ Watershed restoration, innovative reclamation projects, and opportunities to partner with area universities can also support conservation efforts across the region. At the time of this NHA feasibility study, the Kentucky Chapter of Sierra Club is promoting three “future groups” in Eastern Kentucky: Highlands, Red River, and Troublesome.¹²⁶

The success of past efforts to protect Eastern Kentucky’s resources, along with the realization of how much more work can be done to support the natural environment and local communities, provide a foundation for future conservation efforts. **The study team concludes that criterion 3 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Guidelines* is met.**

CRITERION 4

The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion also aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 3 and P.L. 117-339, Section 120103(a)(3)(C)(ii).

Throughout the 20th century, federal and state agencies and local nonprofits have recognized and promoted the recreational opportunities inherent in Eastern Kentucky’s mountains,

120 “Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor,” *Kentucky Natural Lands Trust*, accessed August 2023, <https://knlt.org/pmwc/>.

121 The Nature Conservancy, “The Cumberland Forest Project,” April 21, 2019, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/kentucky/stories-in-kentucky/cumberland-forest/>.

122 American Battlefield Trust, “Help Us Save Hallowed Ground in Tennessee and Kentucky,” accessed August 2023, <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/help-us-save-hallowed-ground-tennessee-and-kentucky>.

123 US Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, “Abandoned Mine Land Award Recipients,” accessed August 2023, <https://www.osmre.gov/programs/abandoned-mine-land-award-winners>.

124 Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition, “AML Pilot Projects Map,” accessed August 2023, <https://reclaimingappalachia.org/aml-maps/>.

125 Megan Mannering, “There’s Nothing Like It” Elk tours continue to enhance eastern Kentucky tourism,” August 24, 2023, <https://www.lex18.com/spotlight-series/theres-nothing-like-it-elk-tours-continue-to-enhance-eastern-kentucky-tourism>

126 Sierra Club, “Eastern Kentucky,” *Sierra Club Kentucky Chapter*, accessed September 2023, <https://www.sierraclub.org/kentucky/eastern-kentucky-future-groups>

waters, and forests. The Kentucky Trail Towns program features 14 communities that already embrace recreational tourism and are working to bring more visitors to eastern Kentucky's public lands and waterways. The Kentucky Trail Towns are located near designated recreation area for all types of trail connections to include hiking, mountain biking, climbing, horseback riding, and off-road vehicle. In addition, the Kentucky Trail Towns also extend to waterways. To be a certified Kentucky Trail Town, these destinations have committed to promote recreation opportunities, culture, and history. Based in Lynch (Harlan County), the nonprofit Backroads of Appalachia supports economic development, job training, and opportunity through motorsports-focused tourism. The nonprofit's website includes 51 routes through Eastern Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia that showcase the region's natural beauty, history, and local amenities available in small towns.¹²⁷ The ARC POWER Initiative (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative) provides grants for recreational facilities and reclamation projects.¹²⁸ Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson National Forest, Red River Gorge, and the Kentucky state parks in the study area highlight the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities inherent to the region. Recent regional branding initiatives center on the uniqueness and richness of Eastern Kentucky's recreational and scenic resources, as well as the area's proximity to the majority of Americans. Expanding interpretation and education at existing heritage tourism sites, building capacity in local organization, and strengthening connections across the region can help create additional tourism opportunities in Eastern Kentucky.

Organizers of the Warrior's Path Project are focusing on the recreational and educational potential of Eastern Kentucky by creating additional recreational opportunities connected to the region's cultural history. In 2022, the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) selected McKee Trail Town and Olive Hill Council for Planning and Restoration as community partners for consultation and technical assistance related to The Warrior's Path project.¹²⁹ The project is also partnering with Eastern Kentucky University to create interactive map of Warrior's Path. One goal of the project is to connect local students back into their Eastern Kentucky communities to share their history and help document local stories and deepen residents' and visitors' understanding of the area's rich cultural history through additional partnerships with local organizations and communities.¹³⁰

Educational opportunities are numerous with many museums and historic preservation, natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and tourism organizations. The region has several lasting traditions that provide interpretation of the themes identified in the study for self-reliance in nature, music, and Civil War history. In addition, the history of coal mining in the region is widely interpreted throughout the region. Tourism materials and

127 "About Us," Backroad of Appalachia, accessed August 2023, <https://backroadsofappalachia.org/about/>.

128 Appalachian Regional Commission, "Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative," accessed October 2023, <https://www.arc.gov/power/>.

129 National Park Service, "National Park Service selects 14 new communities for assistance," <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/rtca14.htm>; Mountain Association, "The Warrior's Path Project: Restoring An Ancient Trail Throughout Eastern Kentucky, November 19, 2021, <https://mtassociation.org/training-ideas/the-warriors-path-project-restoring-an-ancient-trail-throughout-eastern-kentucky/>.

130 Tom Martin and Neil Kesterson interview, "Warriors Path," *Eastern Standard*, June 16, 2022, <https://esweku.org/track/3103756/june-16-2022-warriors-path>

information are widely distributed and easily found online with suggested itineraries of sites to visit.

Local groups have ample opportunities to share their own perspectives and stories that have been erased or forgotten by mainstream sources. While the region's population is overwhelmingly White, multiethnic communities of recent immigrants, African Americans migrating from the South, and Kentuckians whose families had been in the area since the years following the American Revolution moved to coal towns and lived alongside each other. The stereotypical image of Appalachians is constantly challenged by the many individuals and groups working for better representation of the region and a nuanced understanding of the realities of living in an area that is still seen by the majority of Americans as remote, disconnected, and plagued by social issues.

Many regional organizations and universities have incorporated educational opportunities and leadership development into their degree and certificate program or continuing education offerings. University Center of the Mountains at Hazard Community and Technical College is a dynamic consortium of postsecondary educational institutions bringing bachelor's and master's degree opportunities to the Kentucky River Area Development District (Perry, Breathitt, Knott, Letcher, Lee, Leslie, Owsley, and Wolfe Counties). Berea College's Brushy Fork Institute works to honor the voice and vision of local people and engage community members in partnership for mutual learning, growth, and service. The program strengthens local and regional leadership in Central Appalachia by partnering with Appalachian communities to grow regional leadership and local development efforts in nonprofits and community-based organizations.

The study team concludes that criterion 4 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Guidelines*.

CRITERION 5

Resources that are important to the identified theme(s) of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 4 and P.L. 117-339, Section 120103(a)(3)(D).

The interpretive themes suggested through public comments and refined by the study team during this study's development may be further developed, expanded, or not fully carried forward in a future heritage area management plan completed by a local management entity. Following are the four potential themes described in chapter 2:

- Appalachian Identify
- Community Strength through Collaboration
- Mutual Aid and Activism
- Enduring Culture.

The resources described in chapter 3 support themes associated with the culture and landscape of Eastern Kentucky. Public lands managed by the US Forest Service, Kentucky State Parks, the Kentucky Office of Natural Preserves, and counties/communities help conserve natural resources, ecological diversity, and migration corridors. These areas, along with Kentucky state parks and state resort parks, waterways, and other public lands, provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to understand the connection between natural resources, recreational resources, and continuing lifeways. Established units of the national park system in the area interpret colonization and European settlement (Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, Big South Fork National River, and National Recreation Area) and Central Kentucky's perilous position during the Civil War (Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument) while providing opportunities to interact with the natural landscape and recreate on public lands. The Department of the Interior recognizes national historic landmarks as properties with national significance and a high level of integrity. The six designated national historic landmarks in the study area are directly associated with early westward expansion of European colonies, the expansion of progressive social movements to remote and isolated Appalachian communities, and the battle for control of Kentucky during the Civil War. Company towns and mining sites provide a window into the changes that came to the region, along with 20th-century industrialization and the expansion of extractive industries. National natural landmarks provide a similar level of recognition for outstanding biological and geological resources.

More importantly, locally and regionally based organizations have created and sustained programs that provide technical assistance, grants, and other opportunities for today's residents to embrace the region's heritage, celebrate its diversity, and honor its contemporary creativity. These grants and the people, places, and products they support help sustain the interplay of landscape and culture in Eastern Kentucky's Appalachia. Scenic byways, live performances, and educational programs celebrate the region's rich musical history, while some mining sites offer tours and a glimpse into the area's historic connection to coal. Annual festivals bring communities together to remember their history, pass on traditions, and look towards the future.

Interpretation of the study area's resources provides distinct opportunities to uplift local voices and support communities in telling own stories. Appalshop started in 1969 as a community film workshop to provide vocational opportunity and offer counternarrative for Eastern Kentucky beyond poverty. Today, the group houses the largest single body of creative work on Appalachia in the world and is driven by the belief that people should have the opportunities to tell their own stories through the arts. The organization supports local voices through the Appalachian Media Institute's film catalogue and Summer Documentary Institute, its radio station that expands the definition of "mountain music," the Performing Our Future coalition that allows communities to organize and tell their stories, and the public health program All Access EKY.¹³¹ Appalshop's Seedtime on the Cumberland Festival of Traditional Mountain Arts celebrates the depth and richness of Eastern Kentucky's heritage and passing it on the new generations.

131 "What We Do," *Appalshop*, accessed August 2023, <https://appalshop.org/what-we-do>.

These efforts connect tangible resources of the lived-in landscape to the intangible aspects of heritage that together define the nationally distinctive story of Eastern Kentucky. **Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 5 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Guidelines* is met.**

CRITERION 6

Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments in the proposed area involved in planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 5 and P.L. 117-339, Section 120103(a)(3)(E).

In requesting a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, Congress required that a proposed local coordinating entity, also referred to as a management entity, develop a conceptual financial plan. The plan should identify the role and funding sources of the proposed coordinating entity, including the federal government, in the management of the proposed heritage area. During the public comment period, many residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and local governments supported Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. (PRIDE) as the coordinating entity and expressed their willingness to continue their partnerships with the organization to support the national heritage area. As the proposed coordinating entity for the potential national heritage area, PRIDE developed a five-year conceptual financial plan based upon anticipated expenses, expected income, and current economic conditions. The plan can be viewed in table 15 (conceptual income expectations) and table 16 (anticipated expenses).

As the coordinating entity and fiduciary agent for the Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, PRIDE would seek to match anticipated federal funds from a combination of state grants, corporate donations, cash donations, volunteer and in-kind contributions, and subgrantee matching requirements. Reflecting recent trends in NHA funding, PRIDE anticipates that federal funding of \$150,000 for the first three years until a heritage area management plan will be approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Following the plan completion, PRIDE anticipates federal funding of \$500,000 annually for years four and five for management plan implementation (table 15). PRIDE anticipates in kind/volunteer time \$200,000 for years one through three and \$300,000 for years four and five, as well as \$50,000 in corporate financial support and \$10,000 in cash donations annually for the first five years. Volunteers would primarily support year-round community water and roadside cleanup efforts, PRIDE Spring Cleanup Month, and Roadside PRIDE Month, but may also support environmental education projects at local schools and help monitoring water quality.

Under administration and operations, PRIDE estimates that the first three years of federal funding would be used to hire a full-time executive director, who would be primarily tasked with preparing the documents for the national heritage area, including the management plan. In addition, PRIDE anticipates hiring two full-time employees to support the executive director. These staff members would assist with plan development and implementation.

When guidance and management is in place, PRIDE would work further with businesses and organizations to begin focusing on marketing for the national heritage area and tourism information. In addition to the management plan and staffing expenses, administration and operation expenses include the cost and maintenance of facilities, utilities, rental space, office equipment, and supplies.

PRIDE collaborates with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), an organization that has supported PRIDE since it was established in 1997. The Appalachian Regional Commission was established in 1965 as a regional economic development agency representing a partnership of federal, state, and local governments. Their mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. The support received from the Appalachian Regional Commission has allowed PRIDE to further develop their tourism and marketing materials.

PRIDE established ongoing programs to improve water quality, reduce solid waste, and support education, volunteer programs, and trainings. The organization's website tracks where natural resources are providing a positive impact on the community and shares accomplishments with the public. PRIDE has been successfully working with partners to secure funding for initiatives to serve communities. PRIDE has been successful in being awarded grants under the Appalachian Regional Commission POWER grant. PRIDE anticipates \$300,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission funding in year one that was awarded through the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative specifically for the Regional Tourism Initiative. PRIDE has already established relationships with each county. PRIDE has demonstrated their plan to secure matching funds under a potential national heritage area designation as shown in table 15 below. The funding will be used to expand a regional outdoor recreation tourism branding initiative for the counties served by PRIDE to develop a regional tourism marketing plan and a hospitality workforce training program.

PRIDE currently receives annual corporate support and cash donations and has been successful in using the funds for community programs across the 41 counties they service, demonstrating their commitment to prioritizing needs and equitably distributing funding. Upon completion of the Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area management plan, PRIDE anticipates some expenses associated with establishing it as the management entity for the national heritage area. These estimated legal fees, along with audit and filing fees, are presented in table 16 with other expenses. In addition, PRIDE plans to continue in community clean up, coordination between counties, and supporting community projects through subgrants.

The public demonstrated support for PRIDE to serve as the management entity of a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area. The National Park Service held a 90-day public comment period from March 1, 2022, to June 1, 2022. The National Park Service held three virtual public meetings in March 2022, and approximately 85 people attended. Approximately 500 individual correspondences were received from the public, all in support for a national heritage area designation. The public also noted that several nonprofit organizations are engaged in environmental conservation and preservation and would be willing to collaborate with a national heritage area. The National Park Service did not receive

any concerns about a potential designation. Various nonprofit entities expressed support for national heritage area designation, including the Center for Biological Diversity, Explore Estill, Friends of Boone Trace, Inc., Kentucky Natural Land Trust, Lewis and Clark Trust, McCreary County Heritage Foundation, the Appalachian Wildlife Foundation, and the Warriors Path Project.

During the public comment period, the public expressed support for a potential designation of a national heritage area that highlights the abundant recreation opportunities in the area, noting diverse vegetation and history that connects to the natural resources such as Daniel Boone and coal mining. The public expressed support for working to continue growing tourism across the study area, which PRIDE supports through initiatives and tourism training.

As a model of collaboration with the federal government, the National Park Service provides funding for continued tourism, preservation, and conservation initiatives. PRIDE demonstrates their commitment to promoting initiatives and utilizing that funding across the study area. A national heritage area is supported by collaborative partnerships, as well as technical support and expertise for the national heritage area. The federal government would not own any land as part of the national heritage area but rather support community-driven projects.

Based on the information requested and provided to the National Park Service, Eastern Kentucky Pride’s current status and proposed coordinating entity financial structure appear to be reasonable and meet the study criteria. The entity has the capacity to manage the financial responsibilities associated with the national heritage area activities and the experience necessary to serve as the management entity. During civic engagement for the feasibility study, several resolutions were submitted in support of PRIDE serving as the management entity.

Based on the financial plan provided by PRIDE and support from local residents, businesses, and organizations, the study concludes that criterion 6 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* is met.

Table 15. Conceptual NHA Income Expectations Provided by Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. (2023)

Funding Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
NHA federal funding	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
ARC POWER funding	\$300,000				
Grant opportunities		\$190,000	\$140,000		
Match fund				\$140,000	\$140,000
Corporate financial support	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Cash donations	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Value of in-kind volunteers	\$150,000	\$85,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Total Funding	\$660,000	\$485,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Table 16. Conceptual Expense Plan provided by Eastern Kentucky Pride (2023)

Expense	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Executive director salary	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$101,000	\$108,000
Administrative assistant	\$43,000	\$45,000	\$54,000	\$58,000	\$60,000
Marketing coordinator	\$72,000	\$75,000	\$78,000	\$80,000	\$82,000
Financial management	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Management, interpretive, and financial plan	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	-	-
Office space	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$11,500	\$11,500
Office equipment and supplies	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Subgrants				\$200,000	\$138,500
Administration and Operation Subtotal	\$251,800	\$256,800	\$273,800	\$485,000	\$425,000
Signage	\$100,000				\$60,000
Communication and outreach (media)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
Business marketing					
Website development and maintenance	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Cleanup in tourism areas	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Development and maintenance	\$20,200			\$27,000	\$27,000
Sponsorship development	\$10,000				
Legal fees	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Audit/filing fees	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
Resource Development and Marketing Subtotal	\$408,200	\$228,000	\$228,000	\$515,000	\$575,000
Total Conceptual NHA Expenses	\$660,000	\$484,800	\$501,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

CRITERION 7

The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 6 and P.L. 117-339, Section 120103(a)(3)(F).

Community support for PRIDE is representative of their years of successfully collaborating with partners across 41 counties in the study legislation to promote tourism and economic growth in the Kentucky Wildlands region. During the study period, the National Park Service received resolutions from 32 cities and 37 counties in the proposed national heritage area supporting the designation of a national heritage area, indicating support for PRIDE as a management entity and indicating a willingness to commit to working in partnership to

develop the national heritage area. The remaining counties that did not submit formal resolutions were spread across the study area. Stakeholder support for PRIDE is a testament to their successful leadership in developing, coordinating, and marketing for the study area. PRIDE consists of staff members and board members from counties in the study area. On average, PRIDE currently works with approximately 50 partners annually to support initiatives and projects in their service area.

Throughout the study process, there was support for the designation of a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, as well as for Eastern Kentucky PRIDE to serve as the local coordinating entity for the national heritage area. This support came from public comment, local communities, counties, and organizations. The recent National Heritage Area Act in 2023 (P.L. 117-339) established a national heritage area system that will create consistent standard criteria for funding, management, and designation of national heritage areas across the country and provides them an annual funding authorization. In addition, there are three national park units in the study area: Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, and Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, which can provide interpretation and technical assistance since it already has a presence in the area. PRIDE also coordinates with the Kentucky Department of Tourism for branding and other coordinated initiatives to support tourism in the area and promote visitor opportunities to the public. The Kentucky Heritage Council is supportive of national heritage areas and mentions them as a tool in the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Plan (2023a).

Since its establishment, PRIDE has successfully collaborated with partners to secure resources necessary to implement projects in the community. In addition, PRIDE has shown success in raising awareness for projects that can have mutual benefits and leverage resources between counties in support of connecting the counties in the region. PRIDE has several successful long-time partnerships, including Southeast Kentucky Economic Development and the Appalachian Regional Commission, which is an economic development partner entity of the federal government and 13 state governments in the Appalachian region. The commission's goal is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. Southeast Kentucky Economic Development is a partnership with a focus on business development for 45 counties in Eastern Kentucky.

The successful working relationship with partners is shown through PRIDE's monthly report card, when, in May 2023, PRIDE reported sewer projects and septic system improvements, 190,000 tons of solid waste collected, 1,600 subgrants, youth and volunteer engagement, 5,700 trainings, and support for local community projects and initiatives. In 2023, PRIDE announced the launch of the Kentucky Wildlands Waterfall Trail, which highlights 17 waterfalls in the study area. The trail provides trip planning information such as length, difficulty level, accessibility, and special features. The trail encourages visitors to engage in outdoor recreation.

The National Park Service engaged eight federally recognized Tribal governments located in or associated with the study area. Invitations to participate via formal letters were sent to the Shawnee Tribe, Cherokee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, The Osage Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indians of

Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Individual meetings with Tribes were held upon request. The Osage Nation provided verbal support for the study and expressed interest in coordinating with the National Park Service should the area become designated. No additional comments or concerns were received from Tribal Nations. If a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area is established, the sovereign governments of the Native Nations that are traditionally connected to the area's resources are recommended as future partners in developing, interpreting, supporting, and managing the heritage area and its resources.

Based on the successful work of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, their willingness to work with existing and future partners, and their level of engagement in the feasibility study, **the study team concludes that criterion 7 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* is met.** Additional partnership between the management entity named/created in future NHA legislation; units of federal and Tribal governments; and other public, private, and nonprofit entities are expected, necessary, and crucial to the establishment and development of any national heritage area in the Kentucky Wildlands conceptual boundary.

CRITERION 8

The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 6 and P.L. 117-339, section 120103(a)(3)(F).

In 2018, the Appalachian Regional Commission and Tourism Economics evaluated the economic impacts of tourism in Kentucky. Tourism Economics reported that 71.6 million visitors spent nearly \$7.6 billion in Kentucky, supporting 4.4% of all jobs in the state resulting in a total economic impact of \$11.2 billion. The report shows a 13% growth in visits, 21.5% growth in visitor spending, and 9.9% growth in tourism employment between 2013 to 2018. The report estimates overall growth from year to year, which aligns with projects being implemented in the Eastern Kentucky region to support tourism and economic growth (Tourism Economics 2018). In addition, the Kentucky Department of Tourism evaluates the annual economic impact of visitors in Kentucky. In 2022, it was estimated that 75.9 million visitors came to Kentucky and spent \$8.9 billion, which resulted in \$12.9 billion in total economic impact supporting 91,668 jobs and \$937 million in tax revenue (Kentucky Department of Tourism 2023).¹³² PRIDE evaluates changes to this data from year to year and has a process in place to track the overall economic impact for the counties they serve each year to determine challenges and opportunities for how to best support each county. A potential designation of a new national heritage area is expected to contribute to the state economic growth; however, it is not certain to what extent. The impact on economic growth is not expected to be negative.

As outdoor tourism and recreation have become a focus for the region, PRIDE has worked with partners to enhance the economic growth of the region through marketing. Partners

132 Tourism Economics, "Economic Impact of Visitors in Kentucky," April 2023, https://www.kentuckytourism.com/media/docs/default-source/research/kentucky-tourism-economic-impact-2022---20220428.pdf?sfvrsn=55ccdedc_1.

include Kentucky Tourism, local direct marketing organizations throughout the region, Shaping Our Appalachian Region, county judges and city mayors, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreation Authority, the Stearns Heritage Foundation, the Promise Zone, the Pikeville Historical Society, and local and regional and state chambers of commerce. PRIDE fostered the tourism marketing campaign, titled “Kentucky Wildlands,” to promote economic development through tourism serving counties in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. The campaign markets the area and provides other programs such as hospitality training and signage grant programs. PRIDE’s hospitality training is offered to assist in employee development, business best practices, and overall education in the tourism industry in Eastern Kentucky. This training program has been very successful in prior years. During the civic engagement for the study, some commenters said that previous federal funding has been managed by PRIDE, and they have been successful in using the funding to support the local counties in their service area. PRIDE has conducted programs and materials to promote tourism and clean-up activities in the region consistent with economic growth in the study area. A key project is the Kentucky Wildlands Waterfall Trail launched in 2023. In addition, PRIDE anticipates a similar effort for a culture and heritage trail that promotes key sites in the study area to support economic growth in the area.

As shown through previous funding mechanisms, PRIDE has demonstrated the ability to manage federal and nonfederal funding in a way that serves each of the counties. The funding has been applied across the counties in Eastern Kentucky, demonstrating PRIDE’s commitment to continuing to serve as the coordinator for Kentucky Wildlands to support economic growth of the region in partnership if designated a national heritage area.

Based on the information outlined under criterion 8, the designation of the Kentucky Wildlands as a national heritage area would continue to promote tourism and provide economic benefits to the local communities. These contributions would be consistent with ongoing economic activities in the study area. **Therefore, the study concludes that criterion 8 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* is met.**

CRITERION 9

A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 8 and P.L. 117-339, section (a)(3)(G).

Whether following government, political, geographic, or geologic lines, national heritage areas should encompass the resources directly relating to and illustrating the distinctive landscape. As shown in the study area resource analysis (chapter 3) and the partial resource list (appendix B), resources found in the eastern portion of the study area support the overarching regional landscape and potential theme examined in chapter 2. Boundaries of national heritage areas can vary in size and shape due to being informed by the assemblage of resources, as well as public and stakeholder support. The Kentucky Wildlands is informally defined as the southeastern area of Kentucky that includes approximately 17,000 acres of cultural resources, natural resources, and recreation opportunities. The legislation for the

Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Feasibility Study specifically named 41 counties in Eastern Kentucky, while also directing the study team to consider any other areas of the state having similar heritage aspects or are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, the study area. Chapter 2 outlines themes associated with Eastern Kentucky, which include Appalachian culture, community building, mutual aid and collaboration, and resilience seen in the counties located on the mountainous Cumberland Plateau.

The National Park Service conducted extensive research, facilitated a roundtable of regional experts, conducted a site visit, and engaged the public in virtual meetings and a public comment period to better understand potential themes in the study area and determine which counties support the nationally distinctive landscape of the “Kentucky Wildlands.”

Kentucky’s diverse natural regions are defined by geographic and topological features across the state that stretch from the Mississippi River in the west to the Appalachian Mountains in the east. The Kentucky Wildlands study area overlaps with the Cumberland Plateau, a wide, heavily forested landform that makes up the southern Appalachian highlands. In Kentucky, the relief between the plateau and the adjacent Bluegrass and Pennyryle regions ranges from a few hundred feet in the northwest to thousands of feet of relief in areas in Harlan County and near Black Mountain—the highest point in Kentucky. The Pottsville Escarpment, a belt of resistant Pennsylvanian-era sandstone that has weathered and eroded to form the cliffs, gorges, rockshelters, waterfalls, and natural bridges for which Eastern Kentucky is now known, forms the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau. The escarpment geographically separates the Appalachian Mountains and eastern coalfield from the gently rolling hills of the Bluegrass Region.¹³³

133 Arthur C. McFarlan, *Geology of Kentucky* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1943), accessed at <https://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/KPS/goky/indexgoky.htm>; Kentucky Geological Survey, “Physiographic Map of Kentucky,” *University of Kentucky*, accessed August 2023, <https://www.uky.edu/KGS/geoky/physiographic.htm>.

EXPLANATION

- Holocene and late Pleistocene; 150,000 years ago–present day; clay, sand, and gravel
- Pleistocene and Pliocene; 10,000–5 million years ago; gravel and sand
- Paleogene/Neogene; 30–60 million years ago; clay and sand
- Cretaceous; 85–95 million years ago; gravel and sand
- Pennsylvanian; 290–325 million years ago; shale, sandstone, and coal
- Mississippian; 325–360 million years ago; shale, limestone, and sandstone
- Devonian; 360–410 million years ago; shale and limestone
- Silurian; 410–440 million years ago; dolomite and shale
- Ordovician; 440–510 million years ago; limestone and shale
- Faults

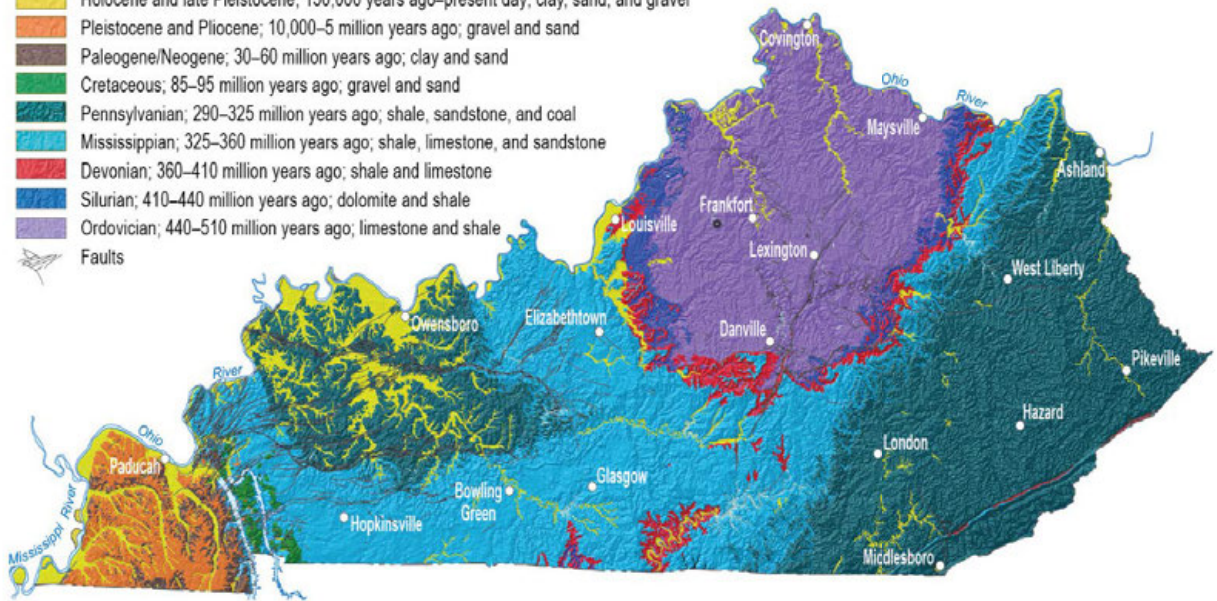


FIGURE 7. GEOLOGIC MAP OF KENTUCKY¹³⁴

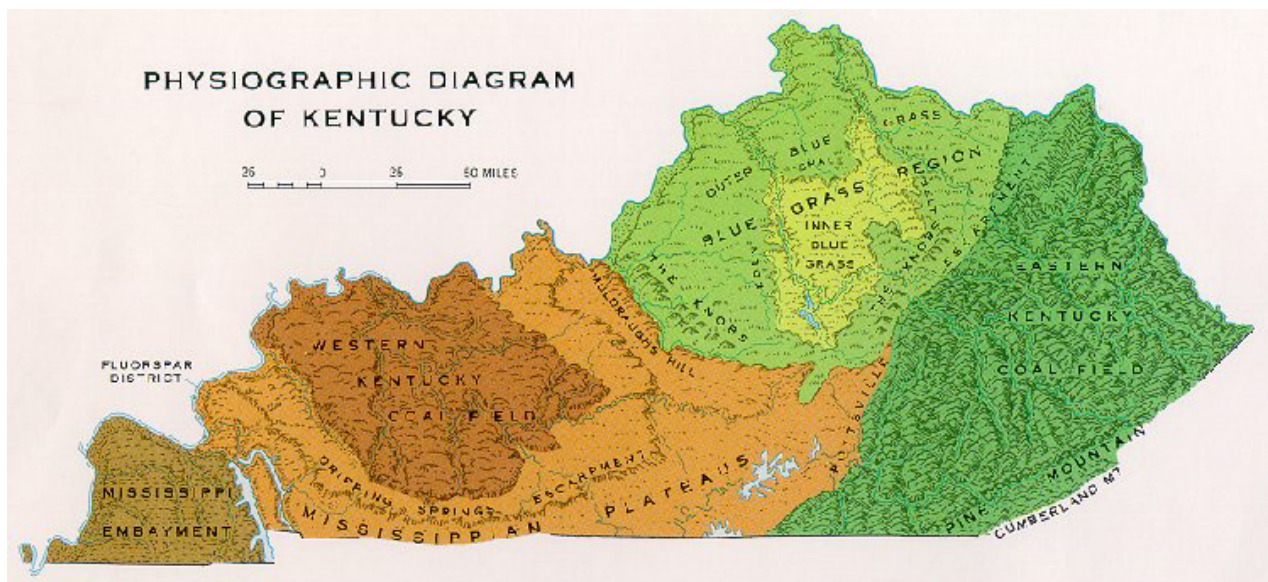


FIGURE 8. PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIAGRAM OF KENTUCKY¹³⁵

Prepared by the Kentucky Heritage Council, *The Archeology of Kentucky: An Update* (2008) identifies five cultural landscapes that represent distinct geographic areas based on regional environmental and/or cultural factors: Purchase, Pennyrile, Ohio Valley Urban Centers,

¹³⁴ University of Kentucky Geological Survey, "Geologic Map of Kentucky," accessed September 2023, <https://www.uky.edu/KGS/geoky/geologymap.htm>.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

Bluegrass, and the Appalachian Mountains. These landscapes are further divided into sections to provided more detailed focus on cultural development across the state.

The Appalachian Mountains Cultural Landscape comprises almost one-third of the state and can be subdivided into the coalfields of the Appalachian Highlands (Bell, Floyd, Harland, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Martin, Perry, Pike, and Whitley Counties) and the Foothills (Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Greenup, Jackson, Laurel, Lee, Lewis, Magoffin, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Powell, Rockcastle, Rowan, and Wolfe Counties).¹³⁶ Regional historian Henry P. Scalf called this portion of the state “Kentucky’s last frontier” in his 1966 work of the same name due to the area’s limited settlement until the 20th century.¹³⁷

Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Metcalfe, Monroe, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, and Wayne Counties are considered the eastern section of the Pennyrile Cultural Landscape, a geographic and cultural region defined by the Cumberland River that was settled earlier than Kentucky’s Appalachian foothills and highlands. Bath and Lincoln Counties are classified as part of the Bluegrass Cultural Landscape, the center portion of the state that includes the most agriculturally productive and highest-valued land that supported large-scale plantations and farms throughout the 19th century.

The most recent Kentucky State Historic Preservation Plan, a roadmap for historic preservation produced every five years by the Kentucky Heritage Council, describes physiographic regions defined by geography as well as human history and settlement. The boundaries of the landscapes and the sections outlined in the 2008 statewide archeological survey remain the same, but the Inner Bluegrass, Outer Bluegrass, and Western Coalfield sections are elevated to distinct cultural landscapes, bringing the total to seven cultural landscapes: Appalachian Foothills/Appalachian Coal Fields; Outer Bluegrass, Inner Bluegrass, Pennyrile Plain/Eastern Pennyrile, Western Coalfields, the Purchase, and Northern Kentucky/Greater Louisville. Figures 9 and 10, taken from the 2023–2007 Kentucky Heritage Council State Historic Preservation Plan, illustrate the physiographic regions and their corresponding cultural landscapes. Again, the western-most counties named in the Kentucky Wildlands NHA study legislation are categorized as the Eastern Pennyrile region.

136 David Pollack, “Chapter 1: Introduction” in *The Archaeology of Kentucky, An Update* (Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, 2008), 19, <https://heritage.ky.gov/Documents/TheArchaeologyofKYAnUpdateVol1.pdf>.

137 Henry P. Scalf, *Kentucky’s Last Frontier* (Johnson City, TN: Overmountain Press, 1966).

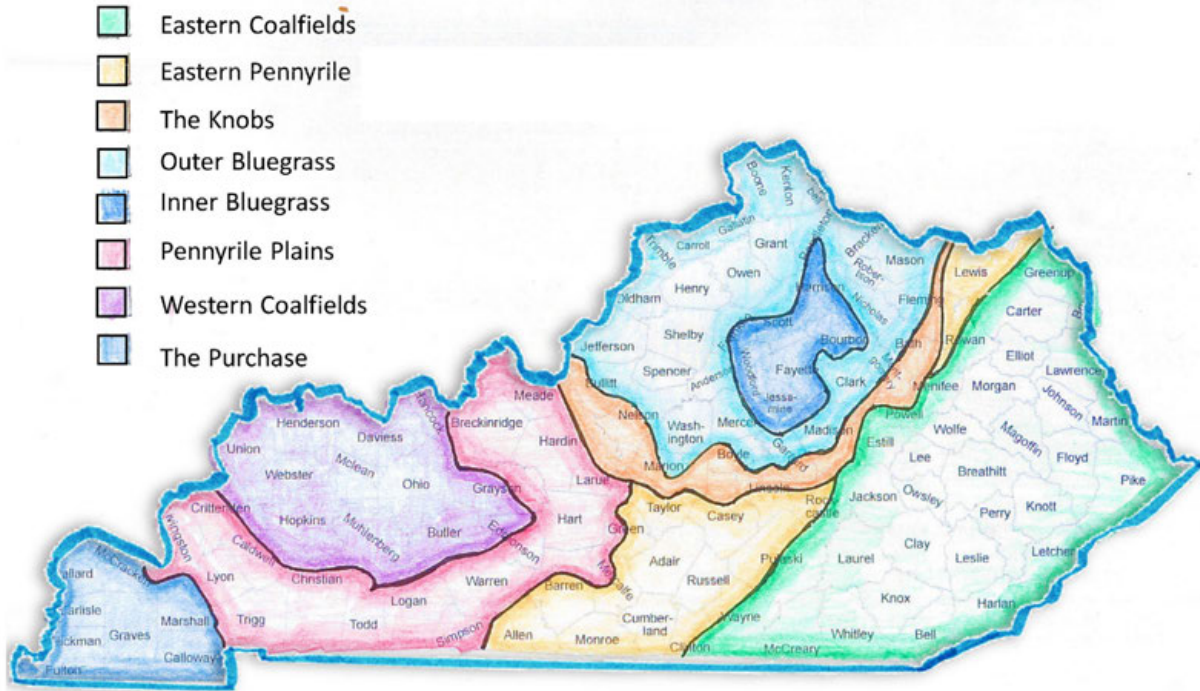


FIGURE 9. PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF KENTUCKY¹³⁸

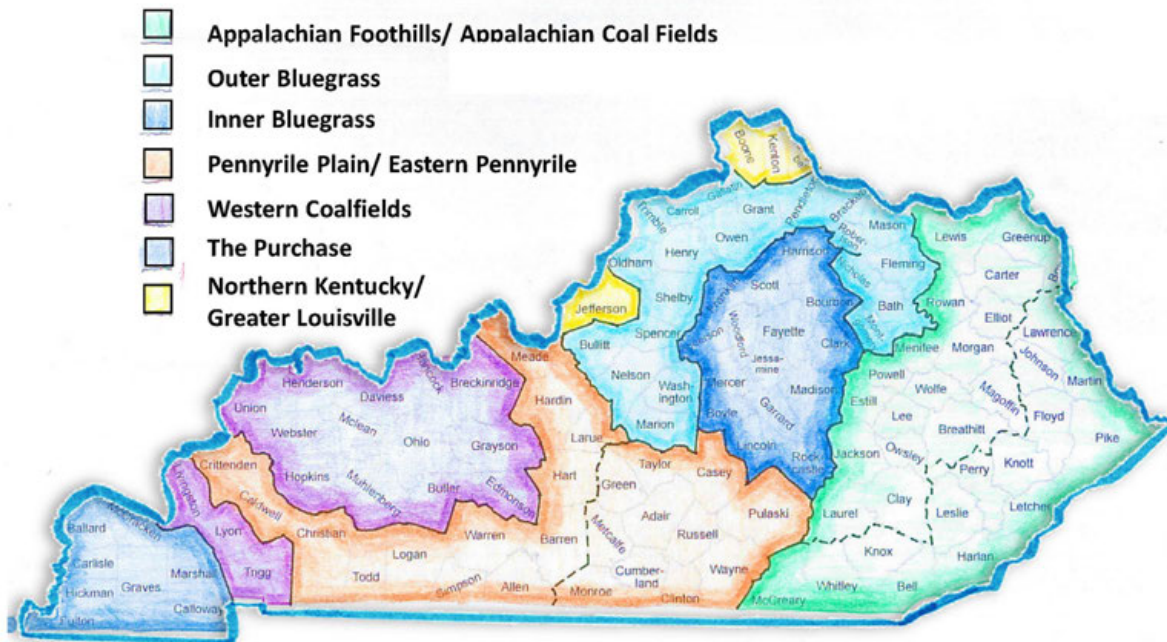


FIGURE 10. KENTUCKY'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPES¹³⁹

138 Kentucky Heritage Council, *A Toolbox for Saving Ourselves: The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Plan 2023-2027*. Accessed October 2023. <https://heritage.ky.gov/Documents/2023%20KY%20State%20Plan%20with%20Appendices.pdf>
 139 Ibid.

The Kentucky Department of Tourism breaks the state into 9 distinct tourism regions (figure 11). Counties named NHA study legislation reach across 5 of these tourism regions, with 29 counties in Kentucky’s Appalachians (Bath, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Morgan, Pike, and Rowan Counties) and Daniel Boone Country (Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, Rockcastle, Whitley, and Wolfe Counties). Kentucky’s Southern Shorelines region (Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, and Wayne Counties) is defined by its reservoirs and lakes. Lincoln County is part of the “Bluegrass, Horses, Bourbon, and Boone” tourism region that includes Lexington and its suburbs. Metcalfe and Monroe Counties are lumped into the “Caves, Lakes, and Corvettes” region, anchored by Mammoth Cave in the center of the state. Additional tourism regions outside the study area are “Western Waterlands,” bordering Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee; “Bluegrass, Blues & BBQ” in the Louisville metro area; “Northern Kentucky River Region,” along the state’s northern boundary of the Ohio River; and “Bourbon, Horses & History,” around Louisville, Bardstow, and Elizabethtown.



FIGURE 11. KENTUCKY TOURISM REGIONS¹⁴⁰

In addition, the experts and the study team noted a geographic shift at the Daniel Boone National Forest, where the landscape and resources in and east/southeast of the forest are distinctly different. Daniel Boone National Forest covers parts of 21 counties: Bath, Clay, Estill, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe. The national forest roughly follows the Pottsville Escarpment along the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau and was in part created to protect scenic resources that are now part of Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Red River Gorge, and Natural Bridge State Resort Park.

140 “Kentucky Regions,” *Kentucky Tourism*, accessed October 2023, <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/>.

Daniel Boone National Forest



FIGURE 12. DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST COUNTY MAP¹⁴¹

Through review of state geologic surveys and historic contexts, as well as input received through public comments and the subject matter expert roundtables, there is a noticeable difference in the physiographic and cultural landscapes of far Eastern Kentucky and the western-most counties named in the Kentucky Wildlands NHA feasibility study legislation. Nine counties named in the legislation (Monroe, Metcalfe, Green, Adair, Cumberland, Clinton, Russell, Casey, and Lincoln) sit west of the Pottsville Escarpment/Daniel Boone National Forest and have repeatedly been grouped together as part of the Pennyriple or Bluegrass regions in terms of culture, geography, settlement patterns, and/or economic development. While Pulaski and Wayne Counties are often included in the Pennyriple region and Rockcastle County is part of the Bluegrass region, the physiographic map of Kentucky (figure 9) shows the eastern portions of these counties as part of the Eastern Coalfield, and portions of all three of these counties are included in the Daniel Boone National Forest.

During the public comment period, there was no official correspondence received from the eastern counties listed above, except for Cumberland County. The majority of written public comments supported all the easternmost counties listed in the legislation as the study area, as well as the addition of Estill, Madison, and Powell Counties to serve as an appropriate boundary for a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area. Estill and Powell Counties sit along the Pottsville Escarpment and have historically been included in the Appalachian Foothills Cultural Landscape. Portions of the counties are part of the Daniel Boone National Forest. Madison County is located along the Knobs that signal the geographic shift from the Cumberland Plateau down to the central Bluegrass Region. While Madison County is considered part of the Bluegrass Cultural Landscape, it has historic ties to Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia. Madison County is home to Berea College, the South's first interracial and coeducational college. Today, the majority of Berea College's students come from

141 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Public Lands Search, accessed June 2023, https://app.fw.ky.gov/Public_Lands_Search/detail.aspx?Kdfwr_id=9089.

Appalachia, and the university actively works to strengthen the connection between the Appalachian region and its programs through programs that foster leadership and cultural traditions. Berea College and Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond offer interdisciplinary Appalachian studies programs that could support or partner with a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area. Madison County also includes resources that directly support the themes of exploration (Fort Boonesboro State Park) and Civil War in Kentucky (Richmond Battlefield).

In addition, these adjacent counties have expressed their interest to working with PRIDE for inclusion in the Kentucky Wildlands area, noting they have similar resources to the counties in the study area and contribute to the heritage of the Kentucky Wildlands. Specifically, Estill County representatives were present in each public meeting, and Estill, Madison, and Powell counties were mentioned at the subject matter expert meetings. The study team then conducted site visits to these counties in April 2023 and confirmed that all three counties contribute to the identified themes of the study.

The National Park Service determined that the assemblage of counties that directly supports the themes for a potential national heritage boundary includes Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe. These counties stretch from the Kentucky's eastern border created by the Big Sandy and Tug Fork Rivers to the westernmost stretches of the Cumberland Plateau and the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The conceptual boundary aligns with the geography of counties serviced by PRIDE, the proposed coordinating entity. In these counties, natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources that support the overall landscape, cultural tradition of the area, and the nationally important heritage of Kentucky Wildlands are evident in each county. The counties share similar resources, geological landscape, and nationally important stories of the heritage. PRIDE has demonstrated success in building a framework to provide support to such a wide area. Increasing the size of the potential national heritage area boundary to the west would present a disconnect in the assemblage of the resources and themes that contribute to the national heritage area. The study team recommends that Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe be included as a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area.

The study team concludes, through the study process and public input, that the 41-county study area named in the legislation should not be the conceptual boundary for the national heritage area. Rather, the conceptual boundary includes the following 35 counties: Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe (figure 1). Overall support was heard through public comment and input from subject matter experts, which were then confirmed by site visits to the area. **The study team**

concludes that criterion 9 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* is met.

CRITERION 10

The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion (2019) aligns with P.L. 116-94 criterion 6 and P.L. 117-339, section 120103(a)(3)(F).

During the public comment period, commenters mentioned that state, regional, and local tourism offices could individually manage or assist in the management of the proposed national heritage area. A few commenters suggested local universities such as Morehead State, Eastern Kentucky University, University of Pikeville, Union College, or Berea College as possibilities for assisting in management. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, a nonprofit organization promoting conservation, environmental education, and restoration was suggested by several commentors. Commenters mentioned that this organization engaged with over 400,000 volunteers and administered over \$100 million in federal funding. PRIDE was the most-cited organization mentioned in public comment.

Founded in 1997, PRIDE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, with a mission to contribute to economic and cultural growth of southern and eastern Kentucky by improving water quality, cleaning up solid waste problems, and advancing environmental education, in order to improve living conditions for its residents while enhancing the potential for tourism industry growth in the region. PRIDE established the Kentucky Wildlands regional tourism initiative in 2020 in support of their mission. The organization serves the 41 counties named in the study legislation through a coordinator for each county. PRIDE has been successful in managing federal funding, demonstrating their organizational capacity to manage a potential national heritage area.

PRIDE has engaged in a large number of community projects in the study area and has demonstrated their ability to manage federal and local funds in support of a national heritage area. The public also demonstrated strong public support of PRIDE to serve as the management entity; therefore, PRIDE is the proposed coordinating entity for a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, should one be named in future NHA legislation. Since its establishment, PRIDE has worked with the counties in the service area to promote regional tourism and economic growth, taking a great sense of pride in the local communities through youth and volunteer engagement. PRIDE currently operates with a full-time director and one support person, along with a board representing counties in its service area. If a potential national heritage area were established, it is anticipated that PRIDE would reorganize the current board to include a wider representation of all of the counties recommended as part of the potential boundary. PRIDE anticipates hiring a full-time executive director and two full-time employees to support the executive director, who will collaboratively develop a management plan. PRIDE would work further with businesses and organizations to begin focusing on marketing for the national heritage area and tourism information. Through the Kentucky Wildlands initiative, PRIDE is committed to promoting sustainable tourism and creating connectivity across the region.

If a designation of the Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area occurs, the organization anticipates that the board of directors will continue to provide an overall vision for the Kentucky Wildlands through diverse representation of the area. PRIDE anticipates that the board would establish additional positions to better serve tourism and economic development and represent a wider range of counties. PRIDE also anticipates a steering committee to continue to focus on project work. This committee already includes a wide range of expertise and commitment to organize the communities through project work. This is expected to continue if a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area is established.

In year one, PRIDE plans to staff additional positions and improve signage and wayfinding. The nonprofit also plans to inventory all tourism and economic development organizations in an effort to bring more collaboration and resource sharing between projects. In year two, PRIDE plans to better understand the main priorities in each county, as well as continue building community awareness through marketing and media outreach to promote the Kentucky Wildlands as a regional tourism destination. In year three and beyond, PRIDE will focus on continuing to develop at least one type of trail per year, similar to the Waterfall Trail, as well as recruitment efforts to continue with clean up and water quality improvements. PRIDE anticipates continuing its hospitality training, which focuses on both the service and management of hospitality in future years since local communities have a continued interest in the program and such efforts have been successful in the past.

Based on the information provided, public support for PRIDE, and interviews with PRIDE, the study team concludes that the proposed national heritage area has a local coordinating entity that is prepared to develop and implement the management plan for the area, and the future plans of the coordinating entity have been adequately described. **Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 10 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* is met.**

This page intentionally blank.

Chapter 5 Conclusion



CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

The feasibility study team used 10 evaluation criteria for potential national heritage area (NHA) designation, as outlined in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019), to evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of creating a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area. The study team identified several nationally significant themes related to the study area represented by natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources found throughout Eastern Kentucky, therefore, meeting NHA criterion 1. The strong regional identity, cultural heritage, and related folkways associated with Appalachian and Eastern Kentucky were shaped by the Cumberland Plateau's distinctive landscape and therefore meet NHA criterion 2.

The study area's potential for future conservation, educational, and recreational opportunities meet NHA criteria 3 and 4. The resources described in chapter 3 support the themes associated with Eastern Kentucky and retain a level of integrity that supports interpretation and, therefore, meet criterion 5.

Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. (PRIDE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to contribute to economic and cultural growth of southern and Eastern Kentucky by improving water quality, cleaning up solid waste problems, and advancing environmental education to improve living conditions for its residents while enhancing the potential for tourism industry growth in the region. PRIDE established the Kentucky Wildlands regional tourism initiative in 2020 and meets criteria 6. PRIDE is the proposed coordinating entity for a Kentucky Wildlands national heritage area, should one be named in future NHA legislation, as required under criterion 10.

Based on the successful work of PRIDE, their willingness to work with existing and future partners, and their level of engagement in the feasibility study, the study team concludes that NHA criterion 7 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

The designation of the Kentucky Wildlands as a national heritage area would continue to promote tourism and provide economic benefits to the local communities; these contributions would be consistent with ongoing economic activities in the study area and, therefore, support NHA criterion 8.

National heritage area criterion 9 requires a conceptual boundary map that is publicly supported. Public comments and subject matter experts identified the Cumberland Plateau and Appalachian Mountains as defining topographic features of Eastern Kentucky. Following these recommendations, the National Park Service determined that the most appropriate boundary for a potential national heritage area would follow county lines and include counties that touched the Cumberland Plateau or included land managed by the Daniel Boone National Forest. The conceptual boundary includes the following counties: Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe (figure 1). The conceptual boundary aligns with the geography of counties serviced by PRIDE, the proposed coordinating entity. In these counties, natural, cultural,

historic, and recreational resources that support the overall landscape, cultural tradition of the area, and the nationally important heritage of the Kentucky Wildlands are evident in each county. The counties share similar resources, geological landscape, and nationally important stories of the heritage.

Based on the analysis presented in this feasibility study, the study team concludes that the 35 Eastern Kentucky counties bordered by the Big Sandy and Tug Fork Rivers in the east and the westernmost stretches of the Cumberland Plateau and Daniel Boone National Forest meet all 10 feasibility evaluation criteria established in the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and all of the individual criteria enumerated in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Act (P.L. 116-94), which directs the National Park Service to prepare this study. These findings are supported through the documentation and analysis presented in chapter 4. The study's findings support the current heritage tourism and outdoor recreation in the area and continued economic development and promotion of the region's natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources.

Appendixes



**APPENDIX A: KENTUCKY WILDLANDS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
FEASIBILITY STUDY LEGISLATION (PUBLIC LAW 116-94)**

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Kentucky Wildlands
5 National Heritage Area Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage
2 Area” means the Kentucky Wildlands National Her-
3 itage Area.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
7 of Kentucky.

8 (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
9 means—

10 (A) the counties in the State of Adair,
11 Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey,
12 Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd,
13 Green, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox,
14 Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lin-
15 coln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee,
16 Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike,
17 Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne,
18 Whitley, and Wolfe Counties; and

19 (B) any other areas in the State that—

20 (i) have heritage aspects that are
21 similar to the areas described in paragraph
22 (1); and

23 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity
24 of, those areas.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
3 with State and local historic preservation officers, State
4 and local historical societies, State and local tourism of-
5 fices, and other appropriate organizations and govern-
6 mental agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suit-
7 ability and feasibility of designating the study area as a
8 National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Kentucky
9 National Heritage Area”.

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-
11 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the
12 study area—

13 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
14 cultural resources that—

15 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the her-
16 itage of the United States;

17 (B) are worthy of recognition, conserva-
18 tion, interpretation, and continuing use; and

19 (C) would be best managed—

20 (i) through partnerships among public
21 and private entities; and

22 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes
23 noncontiguous resources and active com-
24 munities;

1 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
2 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the
3 United States;

4 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

5 (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural,
6 or scenic features; and

7 (B) for recreation and education;

8 (4) contains resources that—

9 (A) are important to any identified themes
10 of the study area; and

11 (B) retain a degree of integrity capable of
12 supporting interpretation;

13 (5) includes residents, business interests, non-
14 profit organizations, and State and local govern-
15 ments that—

16 (A) are involved in the planning of the
17 Heritage Area;

18 (B) have developed a conceptual financial
19 plan that outlines the roles of all participants in
20 the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-
21 ernment; and

22 (C) have demonstrated support for the des-
23 ignation of the Heritage Area;

24 (6) has a potential management entity to work
25 in partnership with the individuals and entities de-

1 scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage
2 Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-
3 tivity;

4 (7) could impact the rights of private property
5 owners with respect to their private property; and

6 (8) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-
7 ported by the public.

8 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

9 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
10 are first made available to carry out this Act, the Sec-
11 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
12 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
14 a report that describes—

15 (1) the findings of the study under section 3;

16 and

17 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
18 Secretary.

APPENDIX B: NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT (PUBLIC LAW 117-339)

PUBLIC LAW 117-339—JAN. 5, 2023

136 STAT. 6159

“§ 120103. National Heritage Area studies and designation 54 USC 120103.

“(a) STUDIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may carry out or review a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of each proposed National Heritage Area for designation as a National Heritage Area. Assessments.

“(2) PREPARATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A study under paragraph (1) may be carried out—

“(i) by the Secretary, in consultation with State and local historic preservation officers, State and local

Certification.	historical societies, State and local tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and governmental agencies; or “(ii) by interested individuals or entities, if the Secretary certifies that the completed study meets the requirements of paragraph (3).
Deadline. Review.	“(B) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a study carried out by interested individuals or entities under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall review and certify whether the study meets the requirements of paragraph (3).
Analysis. Determinations.	“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A study under paragraph (1) shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the proposed National Heritage Area— “(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that— “(i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States; “(ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and “(iii) would be best managed— “(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and “(II) by linking diverse and sometimes non-contiguous resources and active communities; “(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States; “(C) provides outstanding opportunities— “(i) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and “(ii) for recreation and education; “(D) contains resources that— “(i) are important to any identified themes of the proposed National Heritage Area; and “(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation; “(E) includes a diverse group of residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that— “(i) are involved in the planning of the proposed National Heritage Area; “(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the proposed National Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and “(iii) have demonstrated significant support for the designation of the proposed National Heritage Area; “(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the proposed National Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and “(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public. “(4) REPORT.— “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each study carried out under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee

on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

“(i) any correspondence received by the Secretary demonstrating support for, or opposition to, the establishment of the National Heritage Area;

“(ii) the findings of the study; and

“(iii) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

“(B) TIMING.—

“(i) STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY THE SECRETARY.—

With respect to a study carried out by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(i), the Secretary shall submit a report under subparagraph (A) not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study.

“(ii) STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.—With respect to a study carried out by interested individuals or entities in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(ii), the Secretary shall submit a report under subparagraph (A) not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary certifies under paragraph (2)(B) that the study meets the requirements of paragraph (3).

Certification.

“(b) DESIGNATION.—An area shall be designated as a National Heritage Area only by an Act of Congress.

“§ 120104. Evaluation

54 USC 120104.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—At reasonable and appropriate intervals, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may—

Determination.

“(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of a National Heritage Area in accordance with subsection (b); and

“(2) prepare and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes recommendations for the continued role of the Service with respect to each National Heritage Area in accordance with subsection (c).

Reports.
Recommendations.

“(b) COMPONENTS.—An evaluation under subsection (a)(1) shall—

“(1) assess the progress of the applicable local coordinating entity of a National Heritage Area with respect to—

Assessment.

“(A) accomplishing the purposes of the applicable National Heritage Area; and

“(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the management plan;

“(2) analyze Federal, State, local, Tribal government, and private investments in the National Heritage Area to determine the leverage and impact of the investments; and

Analysis.
Determination.

“(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

Review.

“(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report under subsection (a)(2) shall include—

Analyses.

“(1) if the report contains a recommendation of the Secretary that Federal funding for the applicable National Heritage Area should be continued, an analysis of—

“(A) any means by which that Federal funding may be reduced or eliminated over time; and

“(B) the appropriate time period necessary to achieve the recommended reduction or elimination of Federal funding; or

“(2) if the report contains a recommendation of the Secretary that Federal funding for the applicable National Heritage Area should be eliminated, a description of potential impacts on conservation, interpretation, and sustainability in the applicable National Heritage Area.”.

APPENDIX C: PARTIAL RESOURCE LIST

The following list of study area resources was compiled by the study team to examine the types of resources present in the Kentucky Wildlands and if they would support the criteria outlined in Public Law 111-11 and established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. **This list is not intended to be comprehensive**, and this list is intended to compliment the resource lists that are provided in chapter 3. Many more historic properties are recorded in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) than are listed here. Many properties of the study area remain unevaluated for historic significance and representation of thematic stories. Future research and evaluations may identify other resources fitting the attributes of significance that would contribute to a national heritage area, if established. The following table includes primary resources of the study area that represent resources with direct association with a study area theme (for example, a historic property with intact historic fabric), as well as secondary resources in which visitors would be exposed to themes represented in the primary resources (such as a museum or educational center). In some cases, primary resources also serve a secondary function (for example, a historic property operated as a museum).

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Amburgey Rock – Daniel Boone National Forest	Natural	National Forest	Rowan	Daniel Boone National Forest	Family-friendly hike to the summit of Amburgey Rock in Daniel Boone National Forest.	US Forest Service (USFS)	Yes	
Appalachian Center for the Arts	Cultural	Performing Arts	Pike	218 2nd Street, Pikeville, KY 41501	Provides arts education designed to encourage collaboration, partnership, and civic engagement for regional communities.	Not applicable	Yes	
Armco Park	Recreational	Multiple Use Area	Boyd	1119 Armco Park, Ashland, Kentucky, 41102	A public space open to the public and under the maintenance of the Ashland Parks Department. Disc golf, playground, and picnicking are among some of the activities available. The park also contains Iron Ore Trail, a 3.7-mile loop trail that is considered a moderately challenging route.	City Park	Yes	Listed as open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Art Walk – Rowan Walking Tour	Cultural	Art Center	Rowan	Morehead, KY	Self-guided walk-through art in the heart of Morehead. The tour features local museums, galleries, and courthouse, and includes sculptures, and murals.	City of Morehead	Yes	Walking tour
Ashland Armory	Historical	Historic Building	Boyd	2519 Lexington Ave, Ashland, KY	Listed in the NRHP in 2002 as part of Kentucky's National Guard Facilities Multiple Property Submission. The Commonwealth of Kentucky has owned the building, which functioned as an armory, since its completion in 1948. The building is recognizable as an armory, having the main components of that building type (design): an administrative building with an attached drill hall and interior rooms such as the drill hall and offices. The armory is a good example of a late 1940s armory in Kentucky; its large size and appearance resemble a fortress. The armory is significant for its association with the National Guard, a state-based military entity.	NRHP	Access information not available	
Ashland Coal and Iron Railroad Office	Historical	Historic Building	Boyd	1100 Front Street, Ashland, KY	Late 19th-century brick industrial building. Part of Ashland Multiple Resource Area listed in 1979.	NRHP, Ashland Multiple Resource Area	Access information not available	
Ashland Commercial Historic District	Cultural	Historic Site	Boyd	Ashland, KY	Bounded by 13th St., Carter Ave., 18th Street, and Front Street. The district covers nearly 13 blocks, with the period of significance from 1850 to 1940. The brick commercial buildings in the district date from 1890 to 1940, although 43 of the buildings date from 1900 to 1925, a period of significant economic expansion for Ashland.	NRHP	Yes	
Ashland WMA	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Lee	Off Kentucky Hwy. 11, north of Beattyville	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 2,507 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas and receive little or no active management. Open for grouse, deer, turkey hunting.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes; check the Kentucky Dept. Fish and Wildlife Resources website for more information.	
Atkins-Carter House	Historical	Historic Building	Lawrence	314 E. Madison St., Louisa, KY	Queen Anne-style house constructed around 1890 and added to the NRHP in 1988.	NRHP	No	Walking tour
B.F. Combs House	Historical	Historic Building	Floyd	41 North Arnold Ave, Prestonsburg, KY	The nomination form indicates that this building is a well-preserved example of the Colonial Revival style dating from 1922. The original owner was B.F. (Bert French) Combs, an attorney who practiced law in Prestonsburg during the early 20th century. The house stands two-and-a-half stories high with a side-gabled roof and flanking one-	NRHP	No	Walking tour

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
					story wings and exhibits a formal center-passage plan. A pedimented portico stands at the front entrance. Completing the ensemble are a garage designed to resemble the house and two brick pillars that flank the driveway. Included in the nominated area are the house, garage, pillars, and surrounding yard. The B.F. Combs House is sited on a large lot on the east side of South Arnold Avenue between West Court Street and US 23-460, one block north of the city's downtown business district.			
Bad Branch State Nature Preserve	Natural	Nature Preserve	Letcher	Letcher County, Kentucky	A 2,829-acre preserve protecting the scenic beauty of the gorge, and one of the largest concentrations of rare and uncommon species of plants and animals known in the Kentucky. The preserve also protects one of Kentucky's only known nesting pair of common ravens. A portion of the preserve is owned by the Kentucky chapter of The Nature Conservancy.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation
Bat Cave State Nature Preserve and Cascade Caverns State Nature Preserve	Natural	Nature Preserve	Carter	344 Caveland Drive, Olive Hill, KY	These units consist of two tracts totaling 155 acres, located within the boundaries of Carter Caves State Park. Bat Cave was added to the nature preserves system to protect the Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>). This federally endangered species has wintering numbers in the Bat Cave estimated at 28,000. The Cascade Caverns portion of the preserve was dedicated into the nature preserves system to protect two rare plant species, the mountain maple, and the Canadian yew. To prevent disturbing bats in hibernation, the caves are closed to public visitation from October to May. However, the hiking trails on the portion of the preserve that is above ground are open year-round.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation. Seasonal Restrictions
Bath County Farmers Market	Cultural	Market	Bath	2914 US 60, Owingsville, KY	Local market organized by the Kentucky University Research and Extension Office.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Bath County History Museum	Historical	Museum	Bath	Owingsville, KY	Located on second floor of old Bath County Courthouse, the museum tells the history of Bath County's communities, including history of the county's industry, businesses, and schools, among other topics.	Not applicable	Yes	Will schedule group or special visits upon request.
Beaver Creek WMA	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	McCreary	One mile north of Greenwood off US 27 to Bauer RD. Gravel road through center, several ridge and valley dirt trails within area.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 17,751 acres. Classified as a "High Level" management area, which includes more intensive habitat work to manage for wildlife species. Located in Daniel Boone National Forest. Open for deer, rabbit, quail, and grouse hunting with opportunities for trout fishing.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Benham Rail Trail	Cultural, Historical	Trail	HARLAN	State Route 160 in Harlan County, Kentucky	Multiuse path. The Benham Rail Trail—also known as the Benham Walking Trail and Coal Miners Walking Trail—runs east to west across the small town of Benham on a former railroad corridor. The line, which was abandoned by CSX in 1996, was built in 1911 to serve the coal mining industry in Benham, Cumberland, and Lynch.	Not applicable	Yes	
Big Sandy Heritage Center	Cultural	Museum	Pike	172 Division St., Pikeville, KY	The Big Sandy Heritage Center is housed in the historic railroad station in downtown Pikeville. Contains exhibits that portray the rich history and culture of Eastern Kentucky.	Not applicable	Yes	Open Mondays, Thursday, Fridays, and Saturday, 10am - 4pm. Tuesdays and Wednesday by appointment
Big Sandy Milling Company	Historical	Landmark, Historic Site	Lawrence	Pike St. Between Lock Ave. and Railroad Tracks, Louisa, KY	Three-story post-and- beam building listed in the NRHP in 1988. Possibly Louisa's oldest extant industrial and commercial establishment that would bring area farmers to Louisa to trade their grain or to get it processed.	NRHP	Access information not available	Unknown. Listed as a "demolished structure" within Wikipedia's Category: Demolished but still listed in the

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
								National Register of Historic Places
Big South Fork Scenic Railway	Scenic	Scenic Railway	McCreary, Wayne?	66 Henderson St., Stearns, KY 42647	A scenic round-trip tour on the historic Kentucky & Tennessee Railway line to Barthell Coal Camp. Thirty-minute ride to Barthell Coal camp, 2-hour layover, and 30-minute return trip.	Not applicable	Yes	
Blackhorse Farm	Cultural	Farm	Boyd	18517 KY-854, Rush, KY	Authentic horse farm available as a special events venue.	Private; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	No	Available for private events
Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve	Natural	Nature Preserve	Harlan	Harlan County, approximately 5 miles west of the city of Harlan.	A 3,509-acre nature preserve located on Pine Mountain in Harlan County. The largest old-growth forest known in Kentucky, with some trees dating to the late 1600s.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation
Bluegrass Festival	Cultural	Festival	Morgan	West Liberty, KY	Annual music festival held the second weekend in July at Old Mill Park and features local and regional bluegrass acts.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Breaks Interstate Park	Recreational	Multiple Use Area	Pike	Prestonsburg, KY	4,500-acre bi-state park located partly in Pike County and mostly in southwestern Virginia that includes Breaks Canyon and Russell Fork River. Managed by the Breaks Interstate Park Commission (Kentucky and Virginia) to promote and develop the Breaks Interstate Park into a destination for rest, relaxation, and outdoor recreation.	Breaks Interstate Park Commission	Yes	
Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park	Recreational	Park	Perry	4441 KY Hwy. 1833, Buckhorn, KY 41721	Located in the Appalachian foothills of Eastern Kentucky, adjacent to Daniel Boone National Forest. The lodge located here overlooks a 1,200-acre lake. The lodge is open for room rentals seven days a week.	State Resort Park	Yes	Boating, Fishing, Hiking, Swimming, Wildlife Viewing
Camayo Arcade – Ashland Commercial Historic District	Historical	Historic Site	Boyd	Winchester Avenue, Ashland, KY	Historic shopping arcade opened in July 1926 as the first indoor shopping mall built in state.	NRHP	Yes	Houses privately run businesses
Camp Wildcat	Historical	Archaeological Site	Laurel	Address restricted	The remains of the first Civil War engagement of regular troops in Kentucky are at Camp Wildcat. Union forces established the camp on the high, rough terrain of Wildcat Mountain in the late summer of 1861. It was located at the junction of the Wilderness Road and a north-south road that connected Lexington and Richmond with the Cumberland Gap.	USFS; Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
Cane Creek Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Laurel	Approximately 15 miles west of London. Within Daniel Boone National Forest	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 6,677 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Open for rabbit, quail, grouse, and coyote hunting opportunities.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Captain Freese House	Historical	Historic Building	Lawrence	Sycamore St., Louisa, KY	Listed in the NRHP in 1988. Oriented toward the Big Sandy River and originally part of a farm that used the river to export its crops, the house is a good representative of Louisa's early European American settlement and agricultural and commercial patterns. From 1872 to 1894, the house was the home of prominent local businessman and steamboat Captain Milton Freese.	NRHP	No	Privately owned
Carr Creek State Park	Natural, Recreational	Park	Knott	2086 Smithboro Road, Highway 15, Sassafras, KY	Family-friendly recreational area with plenty of water activities, including boating and fishing. The marsh environment in the Carr Creek area is unusual for the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, and this natural area provides a wide assortment of watchable wildlife. Wildlife observations include wood duck, great blue and green heron, ruffed grouse, bobwhite, wild turkey, red-winged blackbird, and warblers.	State Park	Yes	
Carrington Rock Trail	Natural	Trail	Bath	USFS Cumberland District	Carrington Rock Trail (Daniel Boone National Forest) begins at a private campground off KY 36 and ascends on the north side of Carrington Rock and finally meanders around to	USFS	Yes	Seasonal

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
					the east side. Joins Forest Service Road 908. Horse use and hiking are permitted. Mountain biking and motorized use are not permitted. Offers scenic landscape views of Carrington Rock.			
Carter Caves Pictograph	Cultural, Archaeological	Archaeological Site	Carter	Address restricted	Part of Prehistoric Rock Art Sites in Kentucky MPS added to the NRHP in 1989.	NRHP	No	
Carter Caves State Resort Park	Recreational	Park	Carter	344 Caveland Drive, Olive Hill, KY	Approximately 2,000-acre Kentucky state park featuring tours of 4 caves that were a source of saltpeter during the War of 1812. Operating as a tourist attraction since 1924	State Park	Yes	Yes
Cathy Crockett Memorial Rail Trail	Recreational	Trail	Pulaski	Trail end points: US Highway 27/KY-90 (Pulaski County) and Alpine Recreation Area (Sloans Valley)	Multiuse path. The Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail occupies the former railroad right-of-way of the Cincinnati-Southern Railway that was relocated in the 1950s when Lake Cumberland was formed. The trail begins along US Highway 27/State Route 90 just west of Sloans Valley and heads southeast to Alpine Recreation Area. The trail features three tunnels built in the 1800s by Italian and Irish brick masons, in addition to the Alpine Coal Camp and Camp Greenwood, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Interpreted signs along the way discuss the area's history.	Kentucky Rails to Trails Program	Yes	
Cave Run Lake Cane Creek – Daniel Boone National Forest	Recreational	Lake	Bath, Morgan, Rowan	Morehead, KY	8,270-acre lake built for flood protection by Army Corps of Engineers; considered one of clearest lakes in Kentucky and one of top muskie fishing lakes in the United States.	US Army Corps of Engineers	Yes	Seasonal
Cave Run Story Telling Festival – Cave Run Lake, Daniel Boone National Forest	Cultural	Festival	Rowan	Twin Knobs Beach- Cave Run Lake	Annual event showcasing the art of storytelling on the shore of Cave Run Lake each September.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Central Park	Historical, Recreational	City Park	Boyd	Ashland, KY	47-acre park sold to City of Ashland by Kentucky Iron Coal and Manufacturing Company in 1900; primarily used as horseracing track until August 1923.	City of Ashland Parks and Recreation Department	Yes	Open daily 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Clay Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Bath	Located approximately eight miles northeast of Carlisle, KY. From Carlisle take KY 32 north and turn right on KY 57, Cassidy Creek RD.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 8,908 acres. Classified as a "High Level" management area, which includes more intensive habitat work to manage for wildlife species. Provides opportunities for deer, turkey, quail hunting, and fishing.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	Seasonal
Claypool-Young Art Building – Morehead State University	Cultural	Art Center	Rowan	Morehead State University Morehead, KY	The Claypool-Young Art Building is the center for undergraduate and graduate art and design students. The facility houses fully equipped art studios, multimedia classrooms, a computer lab, and an award-winning art gallery. The distinctive architectural style of Claypool-Young stands out on campus. A unique feature of the building's architecture is its north-facing skylights. With most studios situated on the north side of the building, Morehead State students have the advantage of working in studios with the north light prized by artists and designers.	Morehead State University	Morehead State University student, faculty access	
Clear Creek Lake	Recreational	Multiple Use Area	Bath	I-64 East of Owingsville; US 60 E (Exit 123); Hwy 211 S; left on Clear Creek Road	Picnic area, shooting range, campground, White Sulphur Horse Camp, Clear Creek Iron Furnace, Furnace Arch, trails, fishing.	USFS	Yes	
Coal Miner's Museum	Historical	Museum	Johnson	Contact Van Lear Historical Society, Inc. 78 Miller's Creek Road, Van Lear, KY 41265	Located in the former headquarters of the Miller's Creek Division of the Consolidated Coal Company, the museum houses several collections of historic items.	Not applicable	Tour access	Schedule tour through Van Lear Historical Society

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Cold Oak Rockshelter	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Lee	Address restricted	The Cold Oak site is a rock overhang in a high east-facing cliff. Daniel Boone National Forest archaeologists recorded the site in 1983 and conducted excavations there in 1984. In 1994, Ohio State University archaeologists returned to the site to do more excavation. Research at Cold Oak, in conjunction with excavations at other rockshelters in Eastern Kentucky, has contributed to the ethnobotanical understanding of plant domestication in Eastern North America. Native peoples primarily occupied the site toward the end of the Late Archaic (1200–1000 BC). Analysis of plant remains and associated artifacts indicated that Native hunter-gatherers used the site seasonally throughout the year.	USFS; Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
Colonel Thomas Deye Owings House	Historical	Historic Building	Bath	Main Street and Courthouse Square, Owingsville, KY	Built during 1811–1814, prominent building that served as a hotel, band, and home has been attributed to architect Benjamin Latrobe was listed in the NRHP in 1978	NRHP	Access information not available	Observed as part of a walking tour
Confederate Monument in Owingsville Cemetery	Historical	Historic Site	Bath	East of Owingsville	Monument listed in the NRHP in 1997 as part of Civil War Monuments of Kentucky Multiple Property Submission.	NRHP	Access information not available	Public cemetery access
Conley-Greene Rockshelter	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Elliott	Address restricted	Prehistoric archeological site listed in the NRHP in 1986.	NRHP	No	
Corbin (Downtown)	Cultural	Multiple Use Area	Knox, Whitley, Laurel?	Corbin, Kentucky	Revitalized downtown area. Historical attractions, antique stores, public library, architecture, dining, and shopping venues. Corbin is the "birthplace of Kentucky Fried Chicken" and home to Cumberland Falls.	Not applicable	Yes	
Core Wilson Stewart Moonlight School in Morehead, Kentucky	Historical, Cultural	School Building	Rowan	175 Bridge Street, Morehead, KY	Rowan County native Cora Wilson Stewart founded the Moonlight Schools movement in 1911, recruiting volunteer instructors teach adults to read and write in one-room community schoolhouses. She is well-known for her work to overcome adult illiteracy. The school, still standing in Morehead, Kentucky, was originally known as "Little Brushy School." After acquisition of the building by Morehead State University, the building was moved from its original area 8 miles north of Morehead to its present location.	Morehead State University	No	Historical Rowan Walking Tour
Country Music Highway	Scenic	Multiple Use Area	Boyd, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Letcher, Pike	Boyd, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Letcher, Pike	Scenic roadway running through seven Eastern Kentucky counties that have produced more hit country artists than any other region per capita.	State Scenic Byway	Yes	
Creelsboro Natural Bridge	Natural, Recreational	Geological Site	Russell	Near the community of Creelsboro, approximately 7 miles (11 km) downstream from Wolf Creek Dam,	A natural bridge located in southwestern Russell County, located near the community of Creelsboro, about 7 miles downstream of Wolf Creek Dam, which is the dam that impounds Lake Cumberland. Formed by river erosion of a cliff on the outer side of a sharp bend in the river. Also known as "Rock House or Rockhouse." The bridge is formed of a massive siliceous grey limestone, and the narrowness of the divide was accomplished by under cutting by both Jims Creek and the Cumberland River. The height of the opening is 15 feet on the north side and 40 feet on the south; the span is 75 feet in length, and the length of the tunnel 100 feet. When highwater conditions exist on the Cumberland River, water flows through the opening to rejoin the river farther downstream.	National Natural Landmark	Yes	Privately owned but is accessible by a short walk from KY 379.
Cumberland Falls State Nature Preserve	Natural, Recreational	Nature Preserve	McCreary, Whitley	7351 Highway 90, Corbin, Kentucky	The dedicated nature preserve encompasses approximately 1,294 acres within the boundaries of Cumberland Falls State Resort Park. This preserve protects several species of rare plants and animals. In addition, a number of waterfalls are in the preserve, including Cumberland Falls.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation
Cumberland Falls State Resort Park	Recreational	Park	McCreary, Whitley	7351 Highway 90, Corbin, Kentucky	Kentucky state resort park that features the Cumberland Falls, which span the Cumberland River along the boundaries of McCreary and Whitley counties. Located in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Park, waterfall, restaurant, and lodging open year-round. Campground open mid-March to mid-November. Activities include hiking, picnicking, camping, wildlife viewing, and water sports.	State Park	Yes	Many amenities open year-round; camping is seasonal

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park	Cultural, Natural	Historic Site, Landmark	Bell	91 Bartlett Park Road, Middlesboro, KY 40965	Known as the "Gateway to the West," the area was long used for passage by bison, Indigenous peoples, and later, where 300,000 people crossed the Appalachians to settle America. Contains 85 miles of trails and 14,000 acres of wilderness and crosses three state boundaries (Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia).	NPS	Yes	
Czar Hunting Access Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Floyd, Johnson, Martin	From US 23 in Prestonsburg, travel 4.5 miles north, and turn right (east) onto Hwy 3. Travel 6.6 miles to the Beech Tract.	Owned by Beech Fork Processing, Inc. This property (15,093 acres) is managed as a Regulated Area for elk hunting and is located in Elk Hunting Unit 6. Drawn elk hunters may apply to hunt this property during the Elk Hunting Unit and Regulated Area drawing. Please refer to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for additional information.	Private; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	No; must apply through private owner to access the area.	
Daniel Boone National Forest	Natural, Cultural, Recreational	National Forest	Bath, Clay, Estill, Harland, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe	District offices located in: Winchester, KY Morehead, KY London, KY Stearns, KY Redbird, KY	The Daniel Boone National Forest manages more than 708,000 acres of national forest system lands within a 2.1-million-acre boundary. Includes over 600 miles of trails, 2 federally recognized wildernesses, and more than 250 recreation sites.	USFS	Yes	
Dawkins Line Rail Trail	Historical	Trail	Breathitt, Johnson, Magoffin, Pike	Highway 825, Swamp Branch, KY 41240	Multiuse trail converted from coal-hauling railroad corridor. Thirty-six miles of the trail, stretching from Hagerhill in Johnson County to Evanston in Breathitt County, is open to hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. The first 25 miles up to Tip Top Tunnel features 24 trestles and the 662-foot Gun Creek Tunnel.	State Park	Yes	Hikers, bikers, and horseback riders.
Deer Pictographs	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Letcher	Address restricted	The pictograph panel (painted images on rock) at this site consists of several drawings painted in red pigment on a large sandstone boulder. Documentation of the pictographs revealed what remains today: images of six deer (arranged as a group of two deer and a larger group), several vertical lines, and an anthropomorphic (human-like) figure, all in red pigment. The anthropomorphic figure is faint but may be holding a stick-like object—perhaps an atlatl (or spear thrower, a tool used to extend the range of a thrown spear).	Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
DeLancey Park	Recreational	Park	Morgan	Route 191, Cannel City, KY	Community park with picnic area, walking trail, and train caboose from Ohio and Kentucky Railroad. DeLancey Park is named for William DeLancey Walbridge, the president of the Kentucky Block Cannel Coal Company and the Ohio and Kentucky Railroad.	City Park	Yes	
Dewey Lake Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Floyd	This wildlife management area surrounds most of the shoreline of Dewey Lake. Six miles east of Prestonsburg on KY 194.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 9,174 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Provides deer, bear, elk hunting, and fishing opportunities.	US Army Corps of Engineers; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Dirt Nasty Off-Road Park	Recreational	Recreation Area	Rowan	599 Pretty Ridge Rd., Morehead, KY	300+ acre park for off-road vehicles just outside Morehead, Kentucky.	Not applicable	No	Check-ins available. Fee for use facility.
Downtown Ashland	Cultural, Historical	Multiple Use Area	Boyd	Ashland, KY	Broadway Square, Central Park, Riverfront Park, 19th-century historic walking tour, art walk.	City of Ashland	Varies	Walking tour

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Downtown Morehead Historic District	Historical	Historic Site, Multiple Use Area	Rowan	Morehead, KY	Thirty-acre historic district, including 55 contributing buildings that were part of the business district area as of 1881. Added to the NRHP in 2022.	NRHP	Yes	Walking tour
Downtown Morehead Walking Trail	Recreational	Trail	Rowan	Morehead, KY	A 2.5-mile walking trail connecting Morehead's sites of interest, including Morehead State University and St. Claire Healthcare campus. The nine sites that are the focus of this tour include (1) Morehead Visitor Center; (2) Cora Wilson Stewart Moonlight School; (3) Morehead City Park; (4) Eagle Lake; (5) Morehead State University Campus; (6) Rowan County Arts Center and Veterans' Memorial Wall; (7) Morehead Police Department; (8) St. Claire Healthcare Campus; (9) Morehead Conference Center; and (10) Morehead History and Railroad Museum.	Not applicable	Yes	Walking tour
Downtown Pikeville	Cultural, Historical	Multiple Use Area	Pike	Pikeville, KY	Twice recognized in Norm Crampton's book, "The 100 Best Small Towns in America." Currently the focus of the Downtown Pikeville Economic Incentive Program designed to support the retention of existing business, attract new business, preserve architectural and building, and support local residents and visitors. Restaurants, retail establishments, cultural and entertainment focused businesses, and office spaces for professional service businesses (accountants, engineers, attorneys, nonprofit organizations).	Not applicable	Yes	
Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site	Recreational, Historical	State Park	Knox	3929 KY 459, Barbourville, KY	A 12-acre state park on part of what was a land claim by Dr. Thomas Walker, who led an expedition through the Cumberland Gap in 1750. Features opportunities for camping, golf and mini golf, horseshoes, and visiting a cabin replica. Open year-round.	State Park	Yes	
E. Lucy Braun State Nature Preserve	Natural, Recreational	Nature Preserve	Harlan	Harlan County, KY	The 609-acre E. Lucy Braun State Nature Preserve is located on the south slope of Pine Mountain in Harlan County. Formerly known as the Pine Mountain Trail State Park Nature Preserve and renamed to honor renowned forest ecologist Dr. Emma Lucy Braun. Contains a variety of habitats and biological diversity. Large sandstone outcrops found throughout the preserve feature gnarly old pitch pines (<i>Pinus rigida</i>) and Virginia pines (<i>P. virginiana</i>), colorful mosses and lichens. Pine woodland, a rare community type recovering from the pine bark beetle outbreak in the late 1990s, fringes these outcrops to the north. An Appalachian bog, one of the rarest natural communities in the state, also is known from the property. The preserve provides habitat for rare plants such as showy gentian (<i>Gentiana decora</i>) and pale corydalis (<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>), which are restricted to Pine Mountain. The only known state record of a globally rare clubmoss occurs there as well. Known birding hot spot. Hiking trails, wildlife viewing opportunities.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation
Eagle Lake	Natural, Recreational	Lake	Rowan	100 Evans Branch Rd., Morehead, KY	Eighteen-acre lake overlooking Morehead State University campus. Offers trails, kayaking, and bank fishing.	Morehead State University	Yes	Closed to public fishing at sunset
Ed Tye Creek Walk	Recreational, Natural	Trail	Whitley	Corbin, KY	A half-mile-long multiuse trail that winds along Lynn Camp Creek. Named after Corbin city commissioner Ed Tye, who supported the project that established the trail.	City of Corbin	Yes	
Elk Forest Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Bell, Harlan, Knox, Leslie	The area lies between KY 66 and US 421 south of Hal Rogers Pkwy. in the area where Clay, Bell, and Leslie Counties meet.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 16,586 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Open for elk, deer, turkey, other small game hunting, and some fishing.	Private; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes, through Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources agreement	
Explore Floyd County, Kentucky – Online Tour	Recreational	Online Tour	Floyd	Floyd County, KY	ExploreKY History digital resource that highlights historical markers and the history of Floyd County. Locations include historical markers highlighting Boone Salt springs, the Samuel May House that was a farm serving as a recruiting and supply post for the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and the Stratton settlement.	Not applicable	Yes	Website
Explore Johnson County, Kentucky – Online Tour	Recreational	Online Tour	Johnson	Johnson County, KY	ExploreKY History digital resource that highlights historical markers and the history of Johnson County. Locations include sites associated with the Civil War, such as the Battle of Middle Creek (Floyd County), John Hunt Morgan's Raid, and skirmish in Paintsville.	Not applicable	Yes	Website

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
					Other highlights include European American settlement and Virginia Sellards Wiley, a woman captured by Native Americans in 1789.			
Fannin's Vegetable Farm	Cultural	Farm	Morgan	2140 Highway 460 W., West Liberty, KY	Kentucky Proud farmstand since 1995, providing produce, flowers, and plants. Located in West Liberty, Kentucky. Open April through October.	Census of Agriculture (2017)	Yes	Seasonal
First United Methodist Church	Historical	Historic Building	Lawrence	204 W. Main St., Louisa, KY	Constructed around 1850 and is one of the oldest existing buildings in Louisa Kentucky, and one of the oldest Methodist Churches in the Big Sandy Valley Area. Noted as for its Gothic Revival church architecture. Added to the NRHP in 1984.	NRHP	Yes	
Fort Boonesborough State Park	Recreational	Park	Madison/Clark	4375 Boonesboro Rd., Richmond, KY	State park featuring the reconstructed Fort Boonesborough containing cabins, blockhouses, and furnishings. Features demonstrations of 18th-century life skills and craft works. Recreational opportunities include boating, camping, birding, picnicking, and walking.	State Park	Yes	
Fraley Festival of Traditional Music (Carter Caves)	Cultural, Recreational	Festival	Carter	344 Caveland Drive, Olive Hill, KY 41164	Held first weekend after Labor Day since the 1970s, the festival pays tribute to Eastern Kentucky musical heritage. Celebrates the history and culture of Eastern Kentucky through the sounds of traditional musical instruments, like the fiddle, dulcimer, and guitar. The festival began as a family reunion, and honors the late master fiddler J. P. Fraley	Not applicable	Yes	
Fred M. Vinson Birthplace and Museum	Historical	Historic Site	Lawrence	315 E. Madison St., Louisa, KY	Eight-room brick building constructed in 1899 as jailer's residence and first occupied by the family of Fred M. Vinson, the 13th Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court (1946–1953). Listed in the NRHP in 1974. Currently operated as the Vinson Birthplace Museum and Lawrence County Tourism Commission.	NRHP	Yes	Currently listed as open to the public 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Wednesday–Saturday.
Furnace Arch Trail	Natural	Trail	Bath	USFS Cumberland District	Natural Arch located off Sheltowee Trace Trail, 7-mile out-and-back hike.	USFS	Yes	
G.D. Callihan House	Historical	Historic Building	Floyd	105 W. Graham St., Prestonsburg, KY	Built in 1931–1932 on land owned by the Callihans since the 19th century, the brick dwelling is architecturally significant as an example of the popular bungalow style and was listed in the NRHP in 1989.	NRHP	No	
Gar Ferguson Site	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Morgan	Redbush, KY	Prehistoric archeological site listed in the NRHP in 1975 for its information potential.	NRHP	No	
Gardner Farmstead	Cultural	Historic Site	Magoffin	Licking Station Road, Salyersville, KY	Surviving example of local antebellum agricultural complex that includes a circa 1830s main house, smokehouse, and farming operations; listed in the NRHP in 2015.	NRHP	Access information not available	
Garred House, Chapel, and Burial Vault	Historical	Historic Building	Lawrence	US Route 23, Louisa, KY	Formerly a two-story sandstone house located on bottom land lying between the Levisa Fork (at the rear of the property) and the hills to the north. Key date of significance is 1870. Highway 25, which is about 1,300 feet from the front of the house, divides the property. is 1,351 feet from the front of the house, divides the property. The house is two-story, of sandstone. NRHP, 1975.	NRHP	Private property	
General Burnside Island State Park	Recreational, Historical	Park	Pulaski	8801 S. Hwy. 27, Burnside, KY 42519	State park named for Civil War general Ambrose Burnside, who led patrols along this 400-acre island while on the lookout for Confederate soldiers. Recreational opportunities include camping, fishing, boating, and golf.	State Park	Yes	
Gladie Cultural Environmental Learning Center (Gladie Visitor Center)	Cultural, Recreational	Visitor Center	Menifee	3451 Skybridge Road, Hwy. 715, Frenchburg, KY	The Gladie Visitor Center is operated in partnership with the US Forest Service. It is an environmental learning center focused on educational opportunities for cultural and natural resources found within the boundaries of the Red River Gorge Geological Area and Clifty Wilderness.	USFS	Yes	Some amenities available seasonally
Grayson Lake	Recreational, Cultural, Historical	Park	Carter/Elliott	314 Grayson Lake State Park Road, Olive Hill, KY	A 1,512-acre park that is known to have been a favored camping area for the Shawnee and Cherokee. Recreational opportunities include fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Year-round marina.	State Park	Yes	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Grayson Lake Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Carter, Elliot	This wildlife management area surrounds most of the shoreline of Grayson Lake. From Grayson, travel 7 miles south on KY 7.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 8,026 acres. Classified as a "High Level" management area, which includes more intensive habitat work to manage for wildlife species.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	Hunting, fishing, boating, birding on lake. Horseback trails, campground with water and electrical hookup at adjacent Grayson Lake State Park
Grizzly Newt Rockshelter	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Jackson	Address restricted	Grizzly Newt is a semicircular, dry, sandstone rockshelter along an east-west trending ridgeline. It sits at the head of a hollow with a southern exposure. The rockshelter measures approximately 140 feet long and 25 feet deep. Eastern Kentucky University carried out limited excavations at Grizzly Newt in 2016 as part of its archaeological field school. These investigations uncovered evidence for multiple occupations by different Native American groups, and a significant finding was well-preserved evidence for Native use during the Early Archaic period (8000 to 6000 BC).	USFS; Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
Haldeman Museum	Cultural, Historical	Museum	Rowan	4500 Open Fork Road, Morehead, KY	Museum showcases the history of the Haldeman Community, a community in Rowan County that was established in 1907 to house workers for the Kentucky Firebrick Company.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal (May–December)
Happy Top Trail	Recreational	Park	LEE	Beattyville, KY	Happy Top Park was a mountain top removal project that has been converted into a popular park in Lee County, Kentucky. Contains a half-mile walking trail that surrounds a community center, amphitheater, baseball field, softball field, basketball court, picnic shelter, swimming facility, and amphitheater. Also features views of the Kentucky River and the hills and valleys of Appalachia.	County Park	Yes	Reservations needed for special events in the amphitheater and in the community center and picnic pavilion
Hatfields and McCoys Feud Driving Tour	Recreational, Historical	Multiple Use Area	Pike	Pikeville Hampton Inn, 831 Hambley Blvd., Pikeville, KY 41501 (visitor center)	Self-guided tour, including historic sites in Kentucky and West Virginia. Pike County, Kentucky sites related to this tour include the McCoy Homeplace (Hardy, Kentucky) and the Hatfield Hog Trial Cabin (McCarr, Kentucky).	Driving Tour	Yes	
Haystack Rockshelter	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Powell	Address restricted	A southwest facing rockshelter situated at the base of a cliff line and measuring approximately 230 feet long and 30 feet deep. Diagnostic artifacts from the site included Late Woodland ceramic vessels and spear points. Also recovered were rare, otherwise perishable materials including cordage, feathers, cane, bark, and leather.	Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
Hazel Green Academy Historic Buildings	Historical	Historic Building	Wolfe	KY Route 191, Hazel Green, KY	Established in 1880, Hazel Green Academy is a surviving example of missionary religious/education institution that provided the only type of formal education for Eastern Kentucky residents. The Hazel Green Academy (HGA) was a private college-preparatory school, founded in 1880 and remained open until 1983. Listed in the NRHP in 1979.	NRHP	Private property	
Hensley-Pine Mountain Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Letcher	From Whitesburg, travel US 119 south 5 miles to Little Shepherd Trail (CR-1087)	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 4848 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas and receive little or no active management. Open for elk hunting.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Hidden Valley Training Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Powell	Located west of Stanton, KY	Hunting Area, 523 acres. Owned by Kentucky National Guard. Open for deer and squirrel hunting. The area is occasionally used by the Kentucky National Guard for training purposes, and visitors should adjust their schedule as necessary.	Kentucky National Guard; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes, with restrictions	
Highlands Museum & Discovery Center	Cultural	Museum	Boyd	1620 Winchester Ave, Ashland, KY	Permanent and temporary exhibits highlighting Eastern Kentucky history and interactive exploration	Not applicable	Yes	Fee for admission

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Hindman Settlement School	Cultural	School	Knott	18 Main St. E., Hindman, KY	Settlement school located in Hindman, Kentucky. Established in 1902 and cited as the first rural settlement school in the United States. The school's focus is on providing education and service opportunities for the area residents and addressing emerging issues of health and food insecurity through increased access to locally produced foods.	Not applicable	Access information not available	
Historic Catlettsburg	Historical	Multiple Use Area	Boyd	Catlettsburg, KY	Named after Alexander Catlett, who arrived in 1798. Town was located along early western route by Ohio River. Historic structures include Catlett House, Beechmore Place, Gothic-style Presbyterian Church, C&O Railroad bridge and depot.	Not applicable	Access information not available	Various sites are listed in the NRHP
Historic Downtown Owingsville / Owingsville Commercial District and Courthouse Square	Historical	Historic Site	Bath	Owingsville, KY	Self-guided walking tour along old homes and businesses along Main Street; listed in the NRHP in 1978.	NRHP	Yes	
Historic Springfield Presbyterian Church	Historical	Historic Building	Bath	Sharpsburg, KY	Springfield Presbyterian Church, erected in 1821 and added to the NRHP in 1979.	NRHP	Access information not available	
Hoskins Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Harlan, Leslie	No directions given	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 5,299 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas and receive little or no active management. The area is divided into numerous tracts within Clay, Harlan, and Leslie Counties. Habitat types vary, but a majority of the property is a mixture of closed canopy forest and reclaimed mine lands in varying stages of regeneration.	Private; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Howard Site	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Madison	Address restricted	This site (a village) is located on a low ridge overlooking a small stream, covers 6 acres, may have consisted of several clusters of houses, and is cited as a late Fort Ancient village (1550–1650 AD). The focus of the limited excavations undertaken at the site were several large pits. Findings from the pits indicated that ash and food remains had been thrown out from hearths and meals into these pits, as well as broken ceramic vessels. Other archaeological findings recovered from the site represent evidence of trade between Europeans and Native Americans (glass beads). Howard site occupants made most of the items they used on a daily basis, such as pottery, arrowheads, and clothing, and traded with other Native American groups for items that were not available locally, such as marine shell or glass and copper beads.	Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
Indian Fort Trail	Cultural, Historical, Recreational	Trail	Madison		A 1.1-mile-long trail near Berea, Kentucky, and located in the Berea College Forest. A popular area for hiking, running, and walking, the forest is owned by Berea College and is a privately managed forest. The Hopewell Culture inhabited the area, and the trail goes through areas that have archaeological significance.	Not applicable	Yes	
Inez River Walk Trail	Recreational	Trail	Martin	Inez, KY	Trail includes a large shelter and goes under two bridges. Tagged as a "birding hotspot" in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird birding hotspot listings.	Not applicable	Yes	
Iron Furnace Driving Tour	Historical	Historic Site	Bath	Bath County, KY	Self-guided auto tour including two of county's former iron furnaces, which are some of the oldest structures in Bath County: NRHP-listed Bourbon Iron Works (Slate Creek Furnace) and Clear Creek Furnace (Bath Furnace).	NRHP	Access information not available	Driving tour
Isaac Shelby Cemetery State Historic Site	Historical	Landmark, Historic Site	Lincoln	Five miles south of Danville off US 127; located on KY Route 300 between Stanford and Junction City	The smallest park in the Kentucky State Park system. A half-acre site containing the burial grounds of the Shelby family. The stone-walled cemetery contains the monument and resting place of Kentucky's first and fifth governor, Isaac Shelby (1750–1826), along with those of his wife and family.	State Historic Site	Yes	Park grounds are open year-round
J.J. Nesbitt House	Historical	Historic Building	Bath	233 W. Main Street, Owingsville, KY	1867–1878 Italianate house listed in the NRHP in 2010.	NRHP	No	Observed as part of a walking tour
Jacob Savageot House and Saloon	Historical	Historic Building	Boyd	1512 Front Street, Ashland, KY	Part of Ashland Multiple Resource Area. Listed in the NRHP in 1979. The two-story three-bay building, which apparently dates prior to 1860, is constructed of brick with stone lintels. Described in the NRHP nomination form as a major remnant of Ashland's 19th-century role as a stop for commercial traffic on the Ohio River.	NRHP, Ashland Multiple Resource Area	Yes	Walking tour

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
James E. Bickford State Nature Preserve	Natural, Recreational	Nature Preserve	Harlan		A 348-acre nature preserve owned by the Pine Mountain School. Open to the public. The preserve protects a high-quality mixed mesophytic forest, the typical natural community found on the north face of Pine Mountain. The preserve also protects Sawmill Hollow Cave, a small cave that developed in the limestone layer that is exposed on the north face of Pine Mountain. Additionally, the preserve supports a diverse invertebrate fauna, including two rare beetles and two species new to science. Six rare plant species, including red-twig doghobble (<i>Leucothoe recurva</i>) and American golden-saxifrage (<i>Chrysosplenium americanum</i>), are known to occur on the preserve.	State Nature Preserve; Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	
Jeep Jamboree	Recreational	Festival	Whitley	Williamsburg, KY	Off-road sporting event held each October near Williamsburg.	Not applicable	Registrants only	Registration and liability waivers required
Jefferson National Forest	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Letcher, Pike	Two portions of this national forest extend into Kentucky, 742 acres in Letcher County on KY 932 and 115 acres in Pike County, access also by trail up Vanover Hollow from KY 197	Hunting area.	National Forest	Yes	
Jenkins Park Trail	Recreational, Historical	Trail	LETCHER	Whitesburg, KY	The legacy Louisville and Nashville Railroad tunnel is repaved for use as a walkway for people in the area. The tunnel connects the Tanglewood Trail, near Whitesburg River Park, to the Pine Mountain Trail.	Not applicable	Yes	
Jenny Wiley State Resort Park	Recreational	Park	Floyd	75 Theater Ct., Prestonsburg, KY	Kentucky state resort park featuring the Jenny Wiley Theater. Other recreational opportunities include hiking, wildlife watching, canoeing, and an interpretive nature center.	State Resort Park	Yes	
Jesse Stuart Foundation Bookstore	Cultural	Market	Boyd	4440 13th Street, Ashland, KY	Nonprofit, regional publisher and bookseller started in 1979 by Greenup County Author Jesse Stuart that republishes out-of-print works by Stuart, Allan W. Eckert, and other Kentucky and Appalachian authors.	Not applicable	No	Storefront remains closed to public following the COVID-19 pandemic; online store is available
Jewell House	Cultural	Archaeological Site; Farmstead	Menifee	Address restricted	In 1898, the Leslie and Mary Jewell family built a new house in the Apperson community about 3 miles southwest of Frenchburg. Historical research and archaeological investigations at the Jewell House suggested that it was a two-story, four-room plank or "box" wooden house built on piers with two chimneys. During the time they lived there, it is known that the Jewell family took in loggers who worked for Union City Lumber Company as boarders. The lumber company left about 1910 after the best timber had been cut, but the Jewell family continued to live near the mouth of Big Amos Creek until circa 1935. The Cumberland National Forest (now the Daniel Boone National Forest) purchased the land in 1941.	USFS; Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
John B. Stephenson Memorial Forest State Nature Preserve	Natural	Nature Preserve	Rockcastle	842 Anglin Falls Rd., Mount Vernon, KY	Owned by Berea College. Protects a 123-acre wooded gorge with a rich spring floral display. Recreational opportunities include a short hike and views of Anglin Falls, cliffs, nature study, and bird watching.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	
John B. Stephenson Memorial Trail	Recreational	Trail	Madison	Berea, KY	Owned by Berea College. Urban, multiuse path that parallels the Brushy Fork River to its confluence with Silver Creek.	Not applicable	Yes	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Judge D.W. Gardner House	Historical	Historic Building, Landmark	Magoffin	KY Route 7, Salyersville, KY	Local landmark that was constructed in 1885 as the home of George W. Gardner, a future chairperson of Department of Interior Board of Appeals, and passed to his brother, local circuit judge Dudley Williams Carter. Added to the NRHP in 1979.	NRHP	Access information not available	
Judge John E. Cooper House	Historical	Historic Building	Morgan	709 N. Main St., West Liberty, KY	An 1870s frame-and-clapboard house of Judge John E. Cooper, an important Eastern Kentucky politician and jurist. Building added to the NRHP in 1996.	NRHP	Access information not available	
Kentucky Artisan Center Trail	Cultural	Multiple Use Area	MADISON	200 Artisan Way, Berea, KY	A 3.5-mile paved multiuse trail that starts at the Berea College Farm Store on South Main Street and heads north past the Kentucky Artisan Center to the end of Mayde Road.	Not applicable	Yes	
Kentucky Folk Art Center	Cultural	Art Center	Rowan	102 W. First Street, Morehead, KY	Located inside the historic Union Grocery Store, the Kentucky Folk Art Center is home to a permanent collection of nearly 1,400 pieces of art from self-taught artists. Hosts regular events including Appalachian Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair on first Saturday in December.	Morehead State University	Yes	
Kentucky Music Hall of Fame	Cultural	Museum	Rockcastle	2590 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY	Opened in 2002 and contains a collection of artifacts and memorabilia highlighting the careers of Kentucky musicians who have been inducted into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame. In addition to country and bluegrass, the museum recognizes music of all genres throughout their displays.	Not applicable	Yes	Museum open year-round, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Kentucky Ridge Forest Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Bell	4 miles west of Pineville on KY 92; borders Kentucky Ridge State Forest	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 3,504 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Provides hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, and grouse.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation	Cultural	Museum; Multiple Use Area	Estill	499 Kirkland Ave, Irvine, KY 40336	The Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation is a Kentucky-based 501 c(3) nonprofit organization operating with the intent to educate and provide opportunities for visitors to engage with the restoration and operation of historic Chesapeake & Ohio Railway equipment, in an effort to stimulate economic growth in the area. Efforts are currently underway to restore the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Steam Locomotive 2716 to operation.	Not applicable	Yes	Opportunities to visit through scheduled events
Kentucky Works Progress Administration Stone Voting Houses in Rowan County NRHP Multiple Property Submission	Historical	Historic Building	Rowan	Morehead, KY	Constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1935-1936, stone voting houses were built to improve voting access in remote mountain communities. Of the original 17 stone voting houses, 11 remain, nine of which are either privately owned or abandoned. Two were refurbished in 1995 for use in elections at Haldeman and Hogtown.	NRHP	No	
Kingdom Come State Nature Preserve	Natural, Recreational	Nature Preserve	Harlan	502 Park Road, Cumberland, KY	A 225-acre nature preserve on the north face of Pine Mountain. Located within the boundaries of Kingdom Come State Park. Protects a large colony of the federally endangered Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>). Line Fork Cave, located in the preserve, is the winter roost for more than 3,000 bats, though it was historically known to host more than 10,000 Indiana Bats. The area is named after the Civil War novel, <i>The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come</i> by Kentucky author John Fox Jr.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Caves are closed to visitation, due to concerns about white-nose syndrome and its impacts on bats.
Kingdom Come State Park	Recreational	Park	Harlan/Letcher	502 Park Road, Cumberland, KY	A 1,283-acre state park named after the Civil War novel, <i>The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come</i> by Kentucky author John Fox Jr. Recreational opportunities include bicycling, hiking, fishing, canoeing, and wildlife viewing.	State Park	Yes	
Kentucky Route 160 – Black Mountain Road	Scenic	Multiple Use Area	Harlan	KY Highway 160 in Harlan County	Beginning at the western limits of Benham at the Looney Creek Bridge extending eastward through the cities of Benham and Lynch up Black Mountain to the Virginia state line, a distance of 10.341 miles.	State Scenic Byway	Yes	
Kentucky Route 89	Recreational	Multiple Use Area	Jackson, Laurel, Rockcastle	KY Highway 89 in Jackson, Laurel, and Rockcastle Counties	Beginning in Rockcastle County at the junction of KY 89 and KY 490 via KY 89 to the Jackson County line, then in Jackson County via KY 89 to the junction with US 421 in McKee, via US 421 in McKee to the junction with KY 89, then Via KY 89 to the Estill County line, a distance of 35.52 miles.	State Scenic Byway	Yes	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Lake Cumberland State Resort Park	Recreational	Park	Laurel, Pulaski, Wayne	5465 State Park Road, Jamestown, KY	Located on the Cumberland River, Wolf Creek Dam (US Army Corps of Engineers project) holds back waters producing the 100-mile-long reservoir known as Lake Cumberland, where a state resort park has now been established. Recreational opportunities include camping, fishing hiking, and boating. There are lodges and campgrounds available for overnight use.	State Resort Park	Yes	
Lawrence County Park at Pleasant Ridge	Recreational	Park	Lawrence	77 Wilderness Road, Louisa, KY	A county park that includes facilities such as cabins, campground, amphitheater, horse trails, conference center, and hiking trails.	County Park	Yes	
Licking River	Natural, Recreational	Wildlife, Recreation	Rowan	Licking River at edge of Rowan County	Licking River's name is believed to have derived from the many salt springs and licks that attracted now-extinct animals such as woolly mammoth, and mastodon, and later elk, white-tailed deer, and bison. It is a partially navigable river that provides water recreational opportunities, such as kayaking, boating, and fishing, and wildlife viewing.	Blue Water Trail	Yes	Public access at designated put-ins and take-outs along the river's length
Lilley Cornett Woods	Natural	Nature Preserve	Letcher	91 Lilley Cornett Br., Hallie, KY	A 554-acre nature preserve and registered Natural National Landmark by the US Department of the Interior that preserves an excellent example of mixed mesophytic forest. Also contains the Lilley Cornett Woods Appalachian Ecological Research Station managed by Eastern Kentucky University.	National Natural Landmark	Yes	Access by appointment only
Little Sandy River	Natural, Recreational	Creek, River	Elliott	Boat put-in at the Heritage Canoe carry down. Directions: US-7 south from Grayson; turn left onto Old Laurel Curve Rd. (after small town of Newfoundland); site is located on the right shortly after crossing the bridge over the Little Sandy River	The higher-elevation, topographic relief in this area of the study area along this stretch of the Little Sandy River provides paddling opportunities for kayaks and canoes.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	Public access at designated put-ins and take-outs along the river's length
Live on the Licking Concert Series	Cultural, Recreational	Program	Morgan	West Liberty, KY	Community concert series held each first Friday of the month from April to October. Concerts are free to the public and take place at the West Liberty Old Mill Park Amphitheatre.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Lockege Rock	Natural	Trail	Rowan	1201 E Clack Mountain Road, Morehead, KY	A 0.7-mile out-and-back trail located near Clearfield, Kentucky. Offers a moderately challenging hike and beautiful overlook of Daniel Boone National Forest lands.	Not applicable	Yes	
Lon Rogers House	Historical	Historic Building	Boyd	2008 Lexington Avenue, Ashland, KY	1920 stucco house built for financier and coal operator Lon Rogers that is prominent local example of picturesque quasi-cottage style. Part of Ashland Multiple Resource Area listed in 1979.	NRHP	No	Observed as part of a walking tour
Lonnie Hill Site	Cultural, Historical	Archaeological Site	Morgan	Redbush, KY	Prehistoric archeological site listed in the NRHP in 1975 for its information potential.	NRHP	No	Privately owned; restricted address
Loretta Lynn's Homeplace – Cabin at Butcher Holler	Cultural, Recreational	Landmark	Pike, Johnson	1917 Millers Creek Road, Van Lear, KY	Birthplace and family home of famed country music singers Loretta Lynn and Crystal Gayle. Located in Van Lear, Kentucky, at Butcher's Hollow (Holler). For tours, stop at Webb's General Store #5 in Van Lear.	Not applicable	No	Onsite visits through tours only. Seasonal (April-Nov)
Lost Image Rockshelter	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Powell	Address restricted	Lost Image Rockshelter is located along the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau in the Red River Gorge. Ceramics, animal bones, and stone tools were scattered fairly evenly across the shelter's floor. The shelter measures approximately 70 feet wide by 30 feet deep. The ceiling is 15 feet high at the dripline. The floor consists of dry, loose sand, some roof fall, and mounds of back dirt created by looters. Native groups primarily used Lost Image Rockshelter toward the end of the Late Woodland period (circa 800–1000 AD).	USFS; Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Louisa Commercial Historic District	Historical	Historic Site	Lawrence	E. Main St. and Main Cross St., Louisa, KY	The Louisa Commercial Historic District occupies approximately one full block of the roughly seven-block central business district of Louisa, the county seat of Lawrence County at the Eastern reaches of Kentucky. The district is part of the central business districts two most densely developed blocks adjoining the courthouse square and stands apart from the surrounding commercial buildings due to its high degree of preservation. Added to the NRHP in 1988.	NRHP	Access information not available	Privately owned business
Louisa Residential Historic District	Historical	Historic Site	Lawrence	Bounded by Perry, Lock, Madison, and S. Lady Washington Streets, Louisa, KY	Four-block historic district west of Louisa's central business district that features 23 primary resources reflecting residential architectural styles popular from the late 1800s through 1930s. Listed in the NRHP in 1988.	NRHP	No	
Louisa United Methodist Church	Historical, Cultural	Historic Building	Lawrence	Main Cross St. and Madison St., Louisa, KY	Neoclassical church constructed in 1916 and added to the NRHP in 1988 for its local architectural significance.	NRHP	Access information not available	Presently schedules weekly Sunday services
Magoffin County Heritage Days – Festival	Historical	Festival	Magoffin	Salyersville, KY	Annual county festival celebrating Eastern Kentucky heritage and genealogy. A parade and historic exhibitions are included in the festivities. Scheduled annually during the week of Labor Day.	Not applicable	Yes	
Magoffin County Historical Society	Historical, Cultural	Building	Magoffin	191 S. Church St., Salyersville, KY	Historical society headquarters. Contains genealogical research collection and information on the Pioneer Village cabins.	Historical Society	Yes	Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.; Saturdays by appointment only.
Martin County Courthouse	Historical	Historic Building	Martin	10 Courthouse St., Inez, KY	A 1938 courthouse listed in the NRHP in 2006 for its association with local politics and government of Martin County.	NRHP	Yes	An active judicial court center
Martin Himler House	Historical	Historic Building	Martin	West of junction of KY Routes 40 and 2031, Beauty, KY	Home of Martin Himler, founder of the Himler Coal Company—a cooperative coal mine owned by Hungarian miners—and Himlerville, a town cooperative owned by its miners. Listed in the NRHP in 1991 for its association with Himler and the experimental Himlerville (now named Beauty, Kentucky).	NRHP	No	
Meadow Creek Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Wayne	Ten miles east of Monticello or 7 miles west of Burnside off Hwy. 90 and then south on Hwy. 1619 1.6 miles.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 232 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas, and receive little or no active management. Open for public hunting under statewide regulations for nearly all seasons; it is closed, however, for the October muzzleloader and modern gun deer seasons.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Memory Hill Foundation Museum	Cultural	Museum	Morgan	89 Memory Hill Lane, West Liberty, KY	Founded in 1969 by Wardie and Hazel Craft, the museum consists of seven log cabins found in Morgan, Magoffin, Breathitt, and Wolfe Counties, a colonial home, church, school, blacksmith shop, and cemetery. No longer open to the public.	Not applicable	No	Open by appointment only
Military Wall Rockshelter	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Menifee	Address restricted	Military Wall Rockshelter is situated within a high, east-facing sandstone cliff line. At its midsection, the shelter provided roughly 25 feet of protective overhang extending from the back wall. In the center of the shelter, the floor is relatively flat and spacious, but several large boulders also are present in this area. The shelter has a maximum ceiling height of 85 feet. Limited archaeological investigations at the site in 2,000 documented intact cultural deposits below the surface. These included black, organically enriched soils—the by-product of plant food processing—and an earth oven. Findings include large quantities of diverse plant remains, such as the seeds of cultivated foods like goosefoot, may grass, marsh elder, erect knotweed, and sunflower. Also present were nuts, like hickory and walnut, and the seeds of wild plants, like grape, amaranth, blackberry, and sumac.	USFS; Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Mill Creek Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Jackson	Two miles south of McKee, off of KY 89	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 13,011 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Open for rabbit, quail, deer hunting.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Mills Springs Battlefield National Monument	Cultural	Historic Site	Pulaski, Wayne	9020 West Highway 90, Nancy, KY	National Park Service unit sited on the location of the Battle of Mill Springs. The Battle of Mill Springs was fought in Pulaski and Wayne Counties near present-day Nancy, Kentucky, on January 19, 1962. This battle is cited as a Union victory that concluded an early Confederate offensive campaign in south central Kentucky near the outset of the Civil War.	NPS; NRHP	Yes	All park grounds are open daily dawn to dusk. Visitor center and museum are open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday
Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery	Recreational, Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Rowan	120 Fish Hatchery Road, Morehead, KY	Operated by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, this is one of the largest warm-water fish hatcheries in the nation, producing nearly four million fingerlings annually.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	Open for tours. Open for waterfowl hunting by advance registration for youth and mobility-impaired hunters only.
Morehead – Kentucky Trail Town	Recreational, Natural	Trail	Rowan	Morehead, KY	Morehead is the third officially designated Kentucky Trail Town. As part of their trail town efforts, the community of Morehead successfully rerouted the Sheltopee Trace, Kentucky's longest trail, to travel through downtown Morehead. This enables trail users to access amenities in Morehead before returning to the trail.	Kentucky Trail Town	Yes	
Morehead Arts & Eats Festival	Cultural	Festival	Rowan	Main Street, Morehead, KY	Arts and food festival held the third Saturday in September. Features arts and crafts vendors, local food vendors, and art demonstrations.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Morehead Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Freight Depot / Morehead History and Railroad Museum	Historical	Museum	Rowan	130 East First Street, Morehead, KY	1881 freight station constructed by Elizabethtown, Lexington, and Big Sandy Railway and 1910 brick passenger depot added by the C&O railroad added to the NRHP in 2015. Operates at the Morehead History and Railroad Museum.	NRHP	Yes	Listed as open Fridays, Saturdays
Morehead Community Tree Walk	Recreational, Cultural	Trail	Rowan	Morehead, KY	Created to recognize the beauty of the region's native trees, the park also celebrates memories of loved ones as each tree planted was sponsored in someone's memory.	Not applicable	Yes	
Morehead State University Historic District	Historical	Historic Site	Rowan	Morehead, KY	Public university that started as Morehead Normal School in 1887. NRHP historic district listed in 1994. The district includes nine Collegiate Gothic-style buildings built simultaneously between 1926–1936.	NRHP	Yes	Open as walking tour
Morgan County Courthouse	Historical	Historic Building	Morgan	Main St, West Liberty, KY	1907 courthouse that is of notable prominence and architecture in downtown West Liberty; listed in the NRHP in 1976.	NRHP	Yes; an active judicial court center	
Morgan County Farmers Market	Cultural	Market	Morgan	Highway 460, West Liberty, KY	Located at the foot of Webb Hill, the market offers local produce and goods Mondays and Saturdays, July–October.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal; open July – October, Tuesdays and Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Morgan County History Museum	Cultural	Museum	Morgan	West Liberty, KY	Located in WPA-built county jail, the museum has local history items and extensive collection of military artifacts. The Morgan County History Museum is reported as closed indefinitely (October 2023), though the building still stands.	Not applicable	No	Reported as closed indefinitely
Mountain Homeplace – Paintsville Lake State Park	Historical, Cultural	Museum, Farm	Johnson	745 KY Route 2275, Staffordsville, KY	Replica of mid-19th-century eastern farming community. The buildings include the McKenzie double-pen family cabin, a one-room schoolhouse, a double crib barn, and	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal (April–October)

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
					the old Fish Trap United Baptist Church. The original LeMaster house is used as a working blacksmith shop. The gardens and fields are surrounded by split rail fencing with views of the Appalachian Mountains. Interpreters in period costumes perform daily chores, give demonstrations, and discuss early farming life. A variety of vegetables and herbs are grown every year on the farm.			
Myrtle Hill	Historical	Historic Site	Bath	Off US Route 64 south of Owingsville, KY	Federal-style house and outbuildings dating from 1815 and listed in the NRHP in 1982.	NRHP	Access information not available	
Natural Bridge State Nature Preserve	Natural, Recreation	Nature Preserve	Powell/Wolfe	2135 Natural Bridge Road, Slade, KY	A nature preserve of approximately 1,188 acres, lying within the boundaries of Natural Bridge State Resort Park. This area was dedicated into the nature preserves system to protect a significant geological system and rare species habitat. The rare Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i>), a federally endangered species, occurs at this preserve. The Hood Branch watershed supports one of the most diverse macroinvertebrate communities in the Kentucky River system, indicating excellent water quality.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation
Natural Bridge State Resort Park	Recreational, Natural	Park	Powell/Wolfe	2135 Natural Bridge Road, Slade, KY	Gateway to Red River Gorge; includes 78-foot long Natural Bridge, Historic Nature Center, Henson's Arch, Natural Bridge Cave. Recreational opportunities include canoeing, fishing, and wildlife viewing, hiking, and picnicking.	State Resort Park	Yes	
Old Mill Park	Recreational	Park	Morgan	West Liberty, KY	A county park on the banks of the Licking River, situated on the site of the former grist mill. Amenities and facilities include an amphitheater with a covered stage, two covered picnic shelters, walking tracks, a playground, and picnic and cookout spaces. Also contains a Licking River access point for canoes and kayaks at Sherman Landing. Events at the park include an annual bluegrass festival and Market in the Park.	County Park	Yes	
Olive Hill – Kentucky Trail Town	Recreational, Natural	Trail	Carter	Olive Hill, KY	Because of Olive Hill's proximity to notable Kentucky trailways, Olive Hill was recognized as the fourth official Kentucky Trail Town. The 1885-era train depot has been restored into the "Trailhead" facility, and regularly hosts community events, live music, market days, and other activities. Trails at Olive Hill include the mostly paved 8.5-mile Green Trail (connects the Depot Trailhead to Carter Cave State Park) and the 12.5 river-miles from the Depot to Carter Caves State Resort Park on Tygarts Creek.	Kentucky Trail Town	Yes	
Olive Hill C & O Depot	Recreational, Historical	Historic Site; Landmark	Carter	Railroad St., Olive Hill, KY	Historic Prairie-style railway depot built in 1910 and listed in the NRHP in 1992. Recently restored to a "Trailhead" facility,	NRHP	Yes	
Paintsville Lake Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Johnson, Morgan	Approximately 3 miles northwest of Paintsville on Hwy. 40, then take Hwy. 2275 to Marina and dam	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 11,222 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Open for elk, bear, deer hunting opportunities.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Paramount Arts Center	Historical, Cultural	Multiple Use Area	Boyd	1300 Winchester Ave., Ashland, KY	One of the first transitional theaters built for "talking pictures" by Paramount Studios that now operates as a not-for-profit organization to provide arts and cultural experiences for children and families in central Appalachia.	Not applicable	Yes	Fee for scheduled events
Patoker Archaeological Site	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Morgan	Address restricted	Prehistoric archeological site listed in the NRHP in 1975 for its information potential. Limited excavations indicate that this was an open habitat site. Findings from this site include midden, a storage/refuse pit, fire hearths, and a portion of an occupation/living floor. One of the few possible Early Woodland base camps in the Paintsville Reservoir area.	NRHP	No	
Pauley Bridge	Historical, Recreational	Bridge	Pike	Pikeville, KY	Wooden pedestrian bridge with view over Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, built 1936–1940 by the Works Progress Administration. The bridge is closed to vehicular traffic.	Not applicable	Yes	
Perry County Park Trail System	Recreational	Trail	PERRY	354 Perry Park Road, Hazard, KY	Pedestrian trail system that passes on the hills east and above the town of Hazard. Trails pass through and along private property.	County Park	Yes	Open only during Perry County Park hours

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Pickin' in the Park – Festival	Cultural, Recreational	Festival	Morgan	Route 191, Cannel City, KY	Annual festival celebrated each September in DeLancey Park with artists, craftspeople, and musicians from the region.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Pikeville Cut –Through Project Overlook	Historical	Engineering Project	Pike	380 Bob Amos Drive, Pikeville, KY	One of largest civil engineering projects in history, as the Levisa Fork was diverted into a half-mile long cut through Peach Orchard Mountain to create 400 acres of new land for commercial development, as well as to reroute the railroad and the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River to reduce flooding. The project was completed in October 1987.	Not applicable	Yes	
Pilot Knob State Nature Preserve	Natural, Recreational	Nature Preserve	Powell	From the junction of the Mountain Parkway and KY 15 at Clay City, follow KY 15 north for 2.7 miles	A 742-acre state nature preserve that features a sandstone outcrop overlooking the Bluegrass region of Kentucky that is known as "Boone's Overlook." Recreational opportunities include hiking, nature study, birding, and geological study.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation
Pine Mountain Settlement School	Cultural	School	Harlan	36 Highway 510, Bledsoe, KY	Settlement school located near Harlan, Kentucky. Established in 1913, its focus is on Appalachian culture and environmental education.	Not applicable	Access information not available	
Pine Mountain State Nature Preserve	Natural	Nature Preserve	Bell	1050 State Park Road, Pineville, KY 40977	Dedicated September 26, 1983, the Pine Mountain State Park State Nature Preserve consists of two tracts of approximately 980 total acres in Bell County. This preserve is located within the boundaries of Pine Mountain State Resort Park. This area contains an old-growth forest of hemlock, tulip poplar, and white oak, many of which are 200–300 years old. This site also contains a significant archaeological site—a large sandstone shelter known as the Rock Hotel that was known to be inhabited by Indigenous peoples.	Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet)	Yes	Non-consumptive recreation
Pine Mountain State Resort Park	Recreational	Park	Bell	1050 State Park Road, Pineville, KY 40977	A mountaintop resort that became Kentucky's first state park in 1924. Contains cottages and hiking trails.	State Park	Yes	
Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail	Scenic, Recreational, Natural	Trail	Pike/Letcher	Pike and Letcher Counties	A key connecting link in the Great Eastern Trail, a long-distance hiking trail stretching from Alabama to New York through nine states and with 1,800 miles of footpaths. The Pine Mountain Scenic Trail is also a partner of the Pine Mountain Wildlife Corridor Project, which is a large landscape level project whose goal is to ensure a forested corridor that connects existing protected areas and maintains the ecological and migratory corridor that is important for bears, flying squirrels, raptors, rare and common songbirds, and numerous other plant and animal life.	State Scenic Trail	Yes	
Ping-Sinking Valley Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Pulaski	Located between Somerset and London, KY	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 806 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Open for deer, turkey, squirrel, and rabbit hunting opportunities	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Pioneer Village	Cultural	Museum	Magoffin	Salyersville, KY	Collection of 15 log cabins moved to site and restored by the Magoffin County Historical Society. Currently used to host demonstrations of pioneer activities/crafts and exhibits.	City Park	Yes	Walking tour
Pioneer Weapons Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Bath, Menifee	FS Road 129, Salt Lick, KY. Located approximately 10 miles south of Morehead, KY. Salt Lick, KY, located on US 60, can be accessed via I-64 exits 123 and 133	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 7,732 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas and receive little or no active management. Hunting limited to longbow, crossbow, and muzzleloading firearms only.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Preston Court Days	Cultural	Festival	Bath	6825 Preston Road, Owingsville, KY	Third Monday of each October	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Prestonsburg Passage Rail Trail	Historical, Recreational	Trail	FLOYD	Floyd County, KY	The Prestonsburg Passage is an 8.6 miles paved trail, 17.2 miles roundtrip, that runs from Prestonsburg to the coal camp community of David, Kentucky. Use the former route of the coal-hauling CSX Railroad between Prestonsburg and David. The railroad ties were replaced with asphalt to create a connective trail offering views of Appalachian	Kentucky Rails to Trails Program	Yes	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
					nature and history. The Passage is wheelchair accessible and provides opportunities for hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists, and inline skaters.			
Quilt Trail	Cultural	Trail	Morgan	Morgan County	Quilt squares in Morgan County can be seen dotted throughout the landscape and are seen as way to preserve aging tobacco barns and to recognize the artistry of quilting, which is a rural tradition. This is a small but growing list of the quilt squares that can be seen on a driving tour. Quilt trails are made up of a series of painted wooden quilt squares hung on barns and businesses, such as craft shops and restaurants, along a particular route. Traditionally, the painting and installation of the quilt squares is a joint effort of the community, often guided by the county extension office or local arts council.	Not applicable	Yes	Driving tour
"Raccoon" John Smith House	Historical	Historic Site	Bath	250 W. Main Street, Owingsville, KY	1839 Greek Revival home of "Raccoon" John Smith, a traveling preacher and early leader in the Restoration Religious Movement listed in the NRHP in 2012.	NRHP	No	
Ramey Mound	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Bath	Ramey Road, 0.5 miles north of Sharpsburg, KY	Archeological site and containing an earthen mound built by people of the prehistoric Adena culture. The archeological site was first recorded in 1807 and added to the NRHP in 1998.	NRHP	No	
Ray Burchwell Archeological Site	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Morgan	Redbush, KY	Prehistoric archeological site listed in the NRHP in 1975 for its information potential.	NRHP	No	
Ray Hill Archeological Site	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Morgan	Redbush, KY	Prehistoric archeological site listed in the NRHP in 1975 for its information potential. Documentation from surveys indicate that this was an open habitat site dating to the Early Woodland period.	NRHP	No	
Red River Gorge Archeological District – Daniel Boone National Forest	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Menifee, Powell, Wolfe	Address restricted	Archeological district covering 37,217 acres of land with 664 known prehistoric and historic sites that date from more than 11,000 years ago to the 1900s.	NRHP	No	
Red River Gorge Geological Area	Natural, Recreational, Scenic	Geological Site	Menifee, Powell, Wolfe	Daniel Boone National Forest	Geologically part of the Pottsville Escarpment and a canyon system on the Red River featuring rock-shelters, waterfalls, sandstone cliffs, and natural bridges. The Red River Gorge is a federally designated National Geological Area, National Natural Landmark, National Archaeological District and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The gorge is also home to the federally designated Wild and Scenic Red River and Clifty Wilderness. Recreational opportunities include hiking, rock climbing, hunting, canoeing, and wildlife viewing.	USFS, National Natural Landmark, National Archaeological District, National Register of Historic Places	Yes	
Red River Gorge Scenic Byway	Scenic	Scenic Byway	Menifee, Powell, Wolfe	Red River Gorge	The byway is approximately 46 miles long with travel time of approximately one hour. This byway is located in the Red River Gorge on the Cumberland District of the Daniel Boone National Forest.	USFS	Yes	
Redbird Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Clay, Leslie	Located 7 miles west of Hyden, KY off US-421	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 24,006 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas and receive little or no active management. Elk, deer, coyote hunting opportunities. Within Daniel Boone National Forest.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Renfro Valley Entertainment Center	Recreational	Multiple Use Area	Rockcastle	2380 Richmond Street, Mount Vernon, KY	A 55-acre complex located in south-central Kentucky near Interstate 75, exit 62. Founded by local John Lair in 1939, this venue features classic country, southern gospel, and mountain bluegrass music events.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Revolutionary Racing Eastern Kentucky Equestrian Center	Recreational	Venue	Boyd	Ashland, KY	Kentucky's ninth and final horse racing facility being built as the state's only track dedicated to Quarter Horses. Set to be built on nearly 200 acres in Boyd County, near Ashland, it will serve as Kentucky's only track dedicated to quarter horses.	Not applicable	Under development	Under development
Ridgetop Scenic Byway	Scenic	Scenic Byway	Estill	Estill County	KY 89 bisecting Estill County from the Jackson County Line to the Clark County Line.	State Scenic Byway	Yes	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Robinson Forest Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Breathitt, Perry	Located east of Jackson and Clayhole. Head east of Clayhole on Hwy. 476 about 8 miles, and turn on Little Buckhorn Rd. and the county line	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 2,003 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas, and receive little or no active management. Main block of the area is closed to all hunting, though the remainder is open under statewide requirements. Elk hunting opportunities.	University of Kentucky; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes, with some restrictions	
Rock Creek Research Natural Area	Natural	Nature Preserve	Laurel	London Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest	The natural area surrounds the Rock Creek drainages of the Rockcastle River. This 86-acre tract is one of the few remaining examples of the virgin hemlock-hardwood forest type that were formerly widespread in the Cumberland Mountains. Features a small natural bridge, sandstone caves, small waterfalls, large timber, flowering shrubs, unusual cliff formations and lesser herbaceous vegetation. The boundary (with the exception of two small stretches) coincides with the almost unbroken cliff line surrounding the drainage. Designated in 1975 as a national natural landmark.	National Natural Landmark, Research Natural Area	Restricted	Apply for non-consumptive research
Rodburn Hollow Park	Recreational	Park	Rowan	Rodburn Hollow Road, Morehead, KY	Park with hiking trail, a playground, picnic shelter, and parking located within the city limits of Morehead.	City Park	Yes	City Park
Ross Creek Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Estill, Lee	From Irvine, travel 2.7 miles southeast on KY-89 S to KY-851. Turn slight left onto KY-851 and travel 6.5 miles to the next turn. Turn right to continue on KY 851 for 2.8 miles.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 935 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas, and receive little or no active management. Located in western Lee County (small portion in Estill County), consists of mostly forested habitat with moderately steep terrain. The area offers opportunity for deer, turkey, and squirrel hunting and fishing opportunities.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Rowan County Courthouse / Rowan County Arts Center	Historical	Historical Site	Rowan	Main Street, Morehead, KY	Constructed in 1899, the county courthouse is one of the most architecturally outstanding buildings in the county. In spring 1981, county operations moved to a newly constructed courthouse and the building was converted into a cultural center. Added to the NRHP in 1983.	NRHP	Yes	
Rowan County Veterans' Museum	Cultural, Historical	Museum	Rowan	Morehead, KY	The Rowan County Veteran's Museum is located in the former superintendent's office. Focus is on preservation of military history and artifacts.	Not applicable	Yes	
Rowan Quilt Driving Tour	Cultural	Trail	Rowan	Morehead, KY	Foothills Quilt Trail Committee strives to preserve two important aspects of Kentucky culture—quilting and farming—by pairing barns with quilt patterns in the hopes of growing interest in the art of quilting and the preservation of historic barns.	Not applicable	Yes	Driving tour
Rudy Fest Bluegrass Festival – Poppy Mountain	Cultural	Festival	Rowan	8030 US 60 West, Morehead, KY	Begun as a fundraiser for the local junior football league coached by Rudy Burchett, the five-day music festival has become one of the top bluegrass events in the country. Held the fourth weekend in June.	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Rudy's Ranch & Horse Camp	Recreational	Ranch	Bath	1020 Carrington Dr, Salt Lick, KY	Family-friendly horse camp with horse campsites for large trailers and primitive camping. Adjoins the Daniel Boone National Forest where there are opportunities for accessing equestrian trails.	Not applicable	Yes	Privately owned business
Sally Gap Bluegrass Festival	Cultural	Festival	Whitley	Williamsburg, KY	The Sally Gap Bluegrass Festival is an annual fundraising event sponsored by the American Traditional Music Project, a nonprofit organization.	Not applicable	Yes	
Saltpeter Cave (Carter Caves State Resort Park)	Historical	Historic Site	Carter	344 Caveland Drive, Olive Hill, KY	Operating as a tourist attraction since 1924, the saltpeter cave is listed in the NRHP. The entrance to the cave has been modified drastically during the mid-20th century during construction and renovation as the land became a state park. Currently, a small limestone block and iron bar structure, resembling a jail cell, gates the entrance.	NRHP	Yes	Seasonal
Salyersville Bank	Historical	Historical Site	Magoffin	Junction of W. Maple and N. Church Streets, Salyersville, KY	Two-story limestone Beaux Arts building constructed in 1912. The bank was instrumental in providing financing for the major oil and gas field at Burning Fork that supported Magoffin County's short-lived oil and gas boom of 1918–1922. Listed in the NRHP in	NRHP	No	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
					1997. Currently headquarters of the Main Street Program and available as an event venue.			
Salyersville Wayfinding Signage Walking Tour	Historical	Trail	Magoffin	Salyersville, KY	Items of interest pertain to both present and historic locations, buildings, and subjects. Ten-stop historic tour with QR codes for related websites.	Not applicable	Yes	
Sanders Café and Museum	Cultural	Museum	Laurel	688 Hwy 25, Corbin KY	An historic restaurant located in North Corbin, Kentucky. The restaurant, founded by Colonel Harland Sanders (Kentucky Fried Chicken) operated from 1940 to 1956. The restaurant was added to the NRHP in 1990.	NRHP	Yes	Open every day, 10am to 9pm
Scott Creek Marina	Recreational	Marina	Rowan	4325 KY 801, Morehead, KY	Marina offering rentals and boat docking facilities for Cave Run Lake boaters. Operating under a special use permit with the Daniel Boone National Forest.	USFS	Yes	
Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail – Daniel Boone National Forest	Recreational	Trail	Bath, Rowan	Daniel Boone National Forest	State's longest trail, running over 300 miles from Rowan County, Kentucky, to Big South Fork in Scott County, Tennessee. across Daniel Boone National Forest and considered the backbone of interconnecting trail systems on national forest land	USFS	Yes	
Sherman Archeological Site	Cultural	Archeological Site	Morgan	Relief, KY	Prehistoric archeological site listed in the NRHP in 1975 for its information potential.	NRHP	No	
Shop Hollow Dumpsite	Historical	Archeological Site	Letcher	Jenkins; address restricted	The Consolidated Coal Company built Jenkins in 1911 as a “model” coal community. Model towns typically offered services other towns did not—company store, well-built schools, churches, and recreational facilities. Jenkins also had the unusual service of company-provided garbage collection. Jenkins residents threw out their everyday trash in the Shop Hollow Dump (one of several company dumps). Artifacts were typical domestic items, such as broken china and bottles. Bottles were more frequently whole or nearly whole compared to those found in yard trash deposits. Some of the artifacts, such as carbide head lamps, reflected the mining occupation of the town's residents. These kinds of artifacts are rarely found at non-mining sites.	Kentucky Archeological Survey	No	
Slab Camp Rock Climbing – Daniel Boone National Forest	Recreational	Recreation Area	Rowan	Clearfield Road, Morehead, KY 40351	Half-mile long horseshoe crag developed in the 1990s that offers approximately 60 climbing routes, including sport, traditional, and mixed. Recently received grant from Access Fund and American Alpine Club to replace original bolts and anchors of 20 routes with new hardware.	USFS	Yes	
Slone Site	Cultural	Archeological Site	Pike	Address restricted	The Slone site is a late Middle Fort Ancient (1350–1400 AD) village. It sat on the north bank of the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. Prior to the creation of Fishtrap Reservoir, the University of Kentucky excavated approximately 80% of the site from 1963 to 1964. Investigators determined that at least 12 houses were arranged around a central plaza in this circular village. Native farmers occupied Slone for 30 to 45 years, as indicated by repeated house and palisade rebuilding.	Kentucky State Parks; Kentucky Archeological Survey	No	
Sorghum Festival	Cultural	Festival	Morgan	West Liberty, KY	Community celebration held last full weekend of September that features Appalachian crafts, folk arts, and food.	Not applicable	Yes	
Spring Branch Rockshelter	Cultural	Archeological Site	McCreary	Address restricted	The Spring Branch Rockshelter is located along a curving cliff face at the head of a steep drainage. It is 200 feet long and 30 feet wide. The ceiling is 40 feet tall at the drip line. Among the objects recovered from this shelter were large sections of ceramic vessels and a variety of textiles and cordage fragments. Textile examples ranged from finely spun and woven fabrics to coarse, unprocessed fiber formed into crude knots, which reflected the level of skill to produce them and/or how expedient the need was for such textiles.	USFS; Kentucky Archeological Survey	No	
St. James AME Church	Cultural, Historical	Landmark, Historic Site	Boyd	1200 Carter Ave., Ashland, KY	One of first congregations to take advantage of Kentucky Iron, Coal, and Manufacturing Company's offer to give land to any group that would construct a church in Ashland. Gable-front, brick church built in 1912 as a visible symbol of accomplishment of the Black community and added to the NRHP in 1979.	NRHP	Access information not available	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Sterns and McCreary County Historical Society	Cultural, Historical	Museum	McCreary	1 Henderson St., Stearns, KY	Housed in the old Stearns Coal and Lumber Company Corporate headquarters and built in 1907. Activities at the museum include collection, preservation, and the protection of artifacts that demonstrate the heritage of the people of McCreary County.	Not applicable	Yes	Open May through November
Stone Mountain Wildlife Management Area and State Natural Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Harlan	From Harlan travel approximately 13 miles southeast on Hwy. 421 to the property on the right.	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 1,017 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas and receive little or no active management. The area is open under statewide regulations for small game, turkey, and deer seasons.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Stone Serpent Mound	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Boyd	West of Big Sandy River, Catlettsburg, KY	A well-preserved, prehistoric example of a relatively rare effigy mound, or geoglyph, with a total length of about 1,430 feet.	NRHP	Yes	Fee for admission
Street Dance	Cultural	Festival	Magoffin	Salyersville, KY	Annual event when the intersection surrounding the county courthouse is blocked off to allow a countywide square dance.	Not applicable	Yes	
Sunnybrook Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Rowan	From Lexington, take I-64 to exit 137. Turn right onto Hwy. 32. Go approximately 3 miles and turn left onto Hwy. 32/60. Go approximately 4.4 miles and turn right at the entrance road	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 142 acres. Classified as a "Low Level" management area, which are typically remote areas and receive little or no active management. Open for turkey hunting.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Sweet Lick Knob	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Estill	Address restricted	The Sweet Lick Knob site sits on the Kentucky River floodplain. Excavations conducted by the University of Kentucky Program for Archaeological Research in 2010 documented a large rectangular Fort Ancient structure at the site. Based on its size, internal features, the materials recovered from the floor, and radiocarbon dates, investigators interpreted the structure as a public building used from 1400 to 1450 AD.	Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
Swift Silver Mine Festival	Cultural	Festival	Wolfe	Campton, KY	Held on Labor Day in downtown Campton. Features food and craft vendors and live music by local and area bands.	Not applicable	Yes	
Tailwater Recreational Area	Recreational	Recreation Area	Bath, Rowan	150 KY Highway 826, Morehead, KY	The Tailwater Recreation Area, at the base of the Nolin River Dam, serves as a recreation access point for the Nolin River before it flows into Mammoth Cave National Park and joins the Green River. This small day-use area is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Located below Cave Run Lake Dam, the recreational area offers opportunities for fishing and picnicking, as well as walking trails, disc golf course, boat ramp to Licking River, and playground.	US Army Corps of Engineers	Yes	
Terrill Cemetery	Historical	Archaeological Site; Cemetery	Madison	Address restricted	The Terrill Cemetery is a 19th-century family cemetery perched on a ridgetop south of Richmond in Madison County. Historic documents research, together with analysis of the artifacts found with those buried within the Terrill Cemetery, indicated that these individuals most likely died sometime between 1830 and 1876. Eight were adults and 10 were infants or children 12 years and younger, which reflects the high child mortality rates of the 19th century.	Kentucky Archaeological Survey	No	
The Warriors' Path Project	Cultural, History	Trail	Bath, Bell, Carter, Clay, Estill, Jackson, Knox, Owsley, Powell, Rowan	Stretches 300 miles from Portsmouth, Ohio to the Cumberland Gap	(From ExploreKYHistory.gov and NPS Cumberland Gap NHP information): The Adena and Hopewell cultures, and later the Cherokee and the Shawnee traveled through the Cumberland Gap along a trade, commerce, and game trail known by the Shawnee as Athiamiovee. As early settlers began to disperse into Kentucky and beyond along this pathway, many were killed in confrontations along this path. The path in Kentucky travels from the Cherokee settlements found southeast of the Cumberland Gap, crosses the Cumberland River at Cumberland Ford (present-day Pineville), then follows the Cumberland River Valley to near present-day Flat Lick, then overland to Goose Creek, a tributary of the Kentucky River in Clay County. Traveling northward, the path crossed	Not applicable	Access information not available	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
					through Powell County and part of Clark County, near the Shawnee town of Eskippakithiki. The Warrior's Path then crossed the Licking River near Blue Licks and met the Ohio River at Cabin Creek in Mason County. In Ohio, Shawnees and Mingos used the route to travel south into Kentucky.			
The Zollicoffer-Thomas Scenic Byway (Kentucky 235 Mill Springs Battlefield)	Scenic	Multiple Use Area	Pulaski, Wayne	Pulaski, Wayne Counties	Beginning in Pulaski County at the junction with KY 80 at Nancy, then via KY 235 and proceeding on Old Mills Springs Battlefield Road in Pulaski and Wayne Counties to the end of the road at the Ferry Landing Tour Stop 8, a distance of 10.360 miles.	State Scenic Byway	Yes	Driving tour
Tredway Memorial Park	Historical, Cultural	Museum	Morgan	West Liberty, KY	Home to the only women's military monument in the state, and one of 12 or fewer in the United States	County Park	Yes	
Trinity Rockhouses	Cultural	Archaeological Site	Wolfe	Address restricted, Slade, KY	Archaeological district listed in the NRHP in 1975 for its archeological potential.	NRHP	No	
Triplett Creek	Recreational, Natural	Creek, River	Rowan	CB Cornett Dr., Morehead, KY	Creek running through Morehead and along City Park that can be accessed for fishing or paddling activities.	Not applicable	Yes	
Twin Knobs Recreation Area – Daniel Boone National Forest	Recreational	Recreation Area	Bath, Rowan	Morehead, KY	Twin Knobs is a 700-acre campground that provides outdoor recreation with lots of amenities. Nearly 200 campsites are developed to accommodate RVs and tent camping. Twin Knobs is located at Cave Run Lake in the USFS Cumberland District.	USFS	Yes	
Tygarts State Forest	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Carter	West of and adjacent to Carter Caves State Resort Park off KY 182.	Wildlife management area of 939 acres. Owned by US Army Corp of Engineers. Deer hunting and fishing opportunities.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Tygarts State Forest	Natural, Recreational	Wildlife, Recreation	Carter	From Hwy. I-64, take KY 182 (Carter Caves Road) north through Carter Caves State Resort Park	A 1,184-acre state park that adjoins Carter Caves State Resort Park. Open for public recreation, including hiking, wildlife viewing and horseback riding. However, off-road vehicles, including ATVs, and camping are prohibited. Public campsites are available at the state park. Master logger training is conducted in the forest several times a year. There is a timber harvesting best management practices trail leading into the forest.	State Park	Yes	
US Army Corps of Engineers Yatesville Lake Dam	Historical	Engineering Project	Lawrence	2762 Hwy. 1185, Louisa, KY	From 1875 until the turn of the century, the Corps of Engineers constructed a series of 53 wicket dams to canalize the Ohio River to meet the demands of year-round navigation beginning at Davis Island near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and traveling the length of the river to Cairo, Illinois. A Wicket Dam Exhibit is located in the Project's Information Center.	US Army Corps of Engineers	Yes	A Wicket Dam Exhibit is located in the Project's Information Center.
US 23 Country Music Highway Museum – Stafford House	Cultural, Recreational	Museum	Johnson	120 Stave Branch, Staffordsville, KY	Features 14 exhibits displaying memorabilia from the many US 23 country music stars who call Eastern Kentucky their home; live bluegrass music and dancing during Front Porch Pickin', scheduled every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.	Not applicable	Yes	
Van Kitchen House	Historical	Historical Site	Carter	KY Route 7, south of Grayson, KY	Two-story, two-unit saddlebag cabin built about 1838. The Army Corps of Engineers moved the building 700 feet northeast to its current location in 1967 to allow for the completion of Grayson Lake. Added to the NRHP in 1967.	NRHP	No	
Warfield Walking Trail	Recreational	Trail	MARTIN	Warfield, KY	A recreational trail, or story walk, that spans from Warfield Park to the town boat dock, features display cases with pages of a book spread along the trail. Each page continues a story and asks participants to perform a physical activity like jumping jacks or running in place. The project is a partnership between the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Extension Service, the Martin County Wellness Coalition, and Active People Healthy Kentucky, with support from the Martin County Public Library System.	Not applicable	Yes	
Webb's Grocery Store (Mine # 5 Store)	Cultural	Historic Building	Pike, Johnson	1917 Millers Creek Road, Van Lear, KY	Built in 1918 for the Consolidation Coal Company, Webb's Grocery is a more-than-100-year-old former coal mining camp store that was owned by Loretta Lynn's brother, Herman Webb, who passed away in 2018. Listed in the NRHP in 1989.	NRHP	Yes	

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities
Wells Hunting Access Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Knott, Leslie, Perry	Consists of several tracts of various sizes in four different counties centered around Hazard, KY. Two of the larger tracts are southwest of Hazard on the Perry/Leslie county line and southeast of Hazard near the town of Vicco.	Owned by Mountain Properties, Inc. and N&G Holdings Company, Inc., Wells Hunting Access Area is the result of a cooperative agreement between the landowner and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Elk, turkey, quail hunting opportunities.	Private; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes; check the Kentucky Dept. Fish and Wildlife Resources website for more information.	
Whistle Stop Café	Cultural	Restaurant	McCreary	Stearns, KY	Stop for visitors riding the Big South For Scenic Railway that offers dining and music venues in Stearns.	Not applicable	Yes	
White Oak Pumpkin Patch	Recreational	Farm	Morgan	8907 US High 460 East, White Oak, KY	Agritourism farm at the site of the 130-year-old family farm that offers tractor rides, corn maze, petting zoo, and pumpkins	Not applicable	Yes	Seasonal
Wilderness Road Heritage Highway	Scenic, Historical	Multiple Use Area	Bell, Knox, Laurel, Madison, Rockcastle	Bell, Knox, Laurel, Madison, Rockcastle Counties	The Wilderness Road Heritage Highway is an historic route that is well-known for its contribution for settlement of the West and also well-known during the Civil War. The route also leads to Renfro Valley, a popular country music venue, as well as Berea, Kentucky, an area that's known for its modern and traditional craft scene.	State Scenic Byway	Yes	
William L. Hurst Law Office	Historical, Cultural	Historic Building	Wolfe	N. Washington Street, Campton, KY	The oldest brick commercial building in Campton's business district and may have been the only commercial brick structure at the time of its construction in 1887. Listed in the NRHP in 1993 for local architectural significance.	NRHP	No	
Wolfe County High School	Historical, Cultural	Historic Building	Wolfe	166 Wolfe County Elementary School Road, Campton, KY	A Works Progress Administration-era school constructed in 1942 at the site of the Kentucky Wesleyan Academy that opened in 1896. Campton High School/Wolfe County High School served as the only publicly funded high school in the county. Listed in the NRHP in 2013.	NRHP	Access information not available	
World Chicken Festival	Cultural	Festival	Laurel	London, KY	Started in 1990 to celebrate Harlan Sander's 100th birthday, the World Chicken Festival hosts 100,000 visitors the last full weekend of September to honor the legacy of the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken.	Not applicable	Yes	
Yatesville Lake State Park	Natural	Lake	Lawrence	Louisa, KY	2,242-acre lake for bass, bluegill, and crappie fishing, along with a golf course, marina, and hiking trails.	State Park	Yes	
Yatesville Lake Wildlife Management Area	Natural	Wildlife Management Area	Lawrence	2667 Pleasant Ridge Rd, Louisa, KY	Wildlife management area managed for hunting opportunities; 2,007 acres. Classified as a "Moderate Level" management area, which includes more limited to habitat and maintenance through prescribed fire, mowing, and long-term habitat work such as forest stand improvements. Open for deer hunting opportunities.	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Yes	
Zilpo Recreation Area – Daniel Boone National Forest	Recreational	Multiple Use Area	Bath	8697 Zilpo Road, Salt Lick, KY 40371	355-acre USFS campground on Cave Run Lake that offers rental cabins, tent camping, RV hookups, trails, scenic overlooks, a boat ramp, and country store.	USFS	Yes	Seasonal
Zilpo Scenic Byway	Scenic	Scenic Byway	Bath	FS Road 918, Salt Lick, KY	Kentucky's only national forest scenic byway runs 11 miles from Clear Creek Lake to Alipo Recreation Area.	USFS	Yes	

This page intentionally blank.

APPENDIX D: LETTERS OF SUPPORT / GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

1. Adair County
2. Bath County
3. Bell County
4. Boyd County
5. Breathitt County
6. Casey County
7. Clay County
8. Clinton County
9. Cumberland County
10. Elliott County
11. Floyd County
12. Harlan County
13. Jackson County
14. Johnson County
15. Knott County
16. Knox County
17. Laurel County
18. Lawrence County
19. Lee County
20. Letcher County
21. Lincoln County
22. Magoffin County
23. Martin County
24. McCreary County
25. Menifee County
26. Metcalfe County
27. Perry County
28. Pike County
29. Rockcastle County
30. Rowan County
31. Russell County
32. Wayne County
33. Whitley County
34. Wolfe County
35. City of Ashland (Boyd County)
36. City of Barbourville (Knox County)
37. City of Beattyville (Lee County)
38. City of Benham (Harlan County)
39. City of Berea (Madison County)
40. City of Booneville (Owsley County)
41. City of Burkesville (Cumberland County)
42. City of Burnside (Pulaski County)
43. City of Catlettsburg (Boyd County)
44. City of Corbin
45. (Laurel, Knox, and Whitley Counties)
46. City of Edmonton (Metcalfe County)
47. City of Grayson (Carter County)
48. City of Greensburg (Green County)
49. City of Harlan (Harlan County)
50. City of Inez (Martin County)
51. City of Liberty (Casey County)
52. City of Livingston (Rockcastle County)
53. City of Lynch (Harlan County)
54. City of Manchester (Clay County)
55. City of McKee (Jackson County)
56. City of Monticello (Wayne County)
57. City of Mt. Vernon (Rockcastle County)
58. City of Olive Hill (Carter County)
59. City of Paintsville (Johnson County)
60. City of Pikesville (Pike County)
61. City of Pineville (Bell County)
62. City of Salyersville (Magoffin County)
63. City of Somerset (Pulaski County)
64. City of Stanford (Lincoln County)
65. City of Warfield (Martin County)
66. City of West Liberty (Morgan County)
67. City of Williamsburg (Whitley County)

APPENDIX D.1 ADAIR COUNTY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

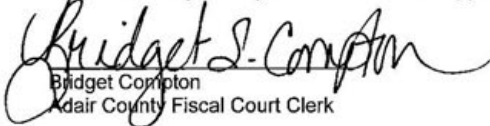
Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Adair contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia with Adair County being home to one of the largest American Chestnut "mother trees" in the United States, Green River Lake and Russell Creek that offer over 25 miles of kayaking trails, one of the most beautiful Historic Courthouses, the homeplace of Janice Holt Giles, and rich in folklore from Frank and Jessie James robbing the Bank of Columbia. Adair County has a great story to tell.

Be it therefore resolved that the Adair County Fiscal Court of Adair County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Motion to approve the Heritage Resolution was made by Magistrate Chris Reeder and seconded by Magistrate Terry Hadley and unanimous for approval by all the Fiscal Court on March 9, 2022.


Bridget Compton
Adair County Fiscal Court Clerk

APPENDIX D.2 BATH COUNTY

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Bath contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Bath Co. fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

APPENDIX D.3 BELL COUNTY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture, and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

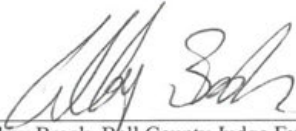
Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

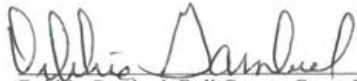
Whereas, the County of Bell contributes to the heritage, natural beauty, and history of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Bell County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Albey Brock, Bell County Judge Executive

5-10-2022
Date



Debbie Gambrel, Bell County Court Clerk

5-10-2022
Date

APPENDIX D.4 BOYD COUNTY



BOYD COUNTY FISCAL COURT



ERIC CHANEY, Judge Executive

KEITH WATTS
County Commissioner
District 1

LARRY D. BROWN
County Commissioner
District 2

RANDY STAPLETON
County Commissioner
District 3

Resolution: 2022 - 05

WHEREAS the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture, and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is

currently being re- developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Kentucky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS the Boyd County Fiscal Court contributes to the heritage, natural beauty, and preservation of wildland in the Commonwealth.

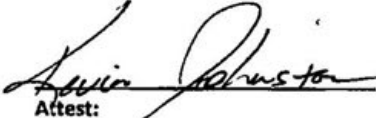
Be it therefore resolved that the Fiscal Court of Boyd County Kentucky, fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Read, adopted, and approved in an open, regular session of the Boyd County Fiscal court

on the 11th day of April, 2022.



Judge Executive



Attest:

APPENDIX D.5 BREATHITT COUNTY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas ,the County/City of Breathitt Co. contributes to the heritage, natural beauty, and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/city council of Breathitt County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Judge Executive

Jeff Noble



Whitness:



APPENDIX D.6 CASEY COUNTY



P.O. Box 306
Liberty, KY 42539
Phone: 606-787-8311
Fax: 606-787-6154

Casey County Judge/Executive
RANDY DIAL
CASEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

<i>Magistrates</i>	<i>District</i>
Cecil Roy	1
Bart Woodrum	2
Robby Murphy	3
Steve Martin	4

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

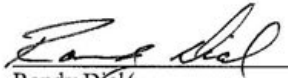
Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Be it therefore resolved that the Casey County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Adopted this 18th day of May, 2022



Randy D. Gal
Casey County Judge/Executive

APPENDIX D.7 CLAY COUNTY

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County/City of Clay contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia (Please write your own "Whereas")

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/~~city council~~ of Clay Co Ky fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

APPENDIX D.8 CLINTON COUNTY

COPY

RESOLUTION
FISCAL COURT OF CLINTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY
RESOLUTION NO. 03-31-2022-I

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CLINTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT IN SUPPORT OF
THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION**

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS, the County of Clinton, Kentucky, contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history, etc. of Appalachia;

WHEREAS, be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Clinton County, Kentucky, fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved this 31st day of March, 2022, by Clinton County Fiscal Court;

Done this 31st day of March, 2022. Motion by Riddle,
Magistrate and seconded by Buster, Magistrate, members present voting
unanimously in favor.

By:

Ricky L. Craig
RICKY L. CRAIG
CLINTON COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

Attest:

W. H. Hall
Clinton County Court Clerk

APPENDIX D.9 CUMBERLAND COUNTY

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY FISCAL COURT
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SYSTEM
Resolution # 2021-22/06**

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re- developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Kentucky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Cumberland, contributes to the Heritage, Natural Beauty and History of Appalachia,

Whereas, Cumberland County is Rich in Beauty with Mountains and Valleys, Rivers and Streams with Beautiful Scenery that is Rare to see,

Whereas, Cumberland County has the Cumberland River that runs through its very heart, teeming with Fish, Aquatic Water Fowl and Wildlife of Many Sorts,

Whereas, Cumberland County inherited its name from a Historic County in North West England deriving from Cumbria, Common Brittanic and meaning Compatriots.

Whereas, Cumberland County was explored, by Boone in 1771 and quickly opened to settlers from abroad,

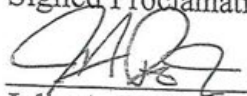
Whereas, Cumberland County was Officially Established in 1798, taken out of Green County and parts of Wayne, Monroe, Russell, Clinton and Metcalfe were formed out of Cumberland between 1800 and 1860.


Whereas, Cumberland County was quickly open for Commerce, sharing its Resources of Timber, and Farm Produce by Riverboat and Steamboat with the rest of America and the New World and grew exponentially during those years,

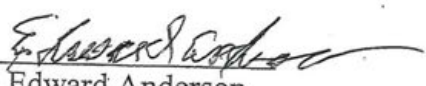
Be it Therefore Resolved that the Fiscal Court of Cumberland County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

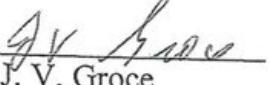
AND it is hereby approved on a Motion by Magistrate J. V. Groce and Further Seconded by Magistrate Jeffery Cyphers that the Cumberland County Fiscal Court proclaims this Resolution This 31st, Day of March 2022.

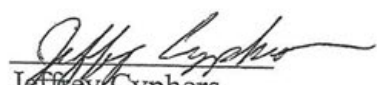
Signed Proclamation:


John A. Phelps Jr.,
Judge Executive
Cumberland County


Randall Wray
Magistrate Dist. # 1


Edward Anderson
Magistrate Dist # 2


J. V. Groce
Magistrate Dist # 3


Jeffrey Cyphers
Magistrates Dist # 4

APPENDIX D.10 ELLOITT COUNTY



MYRON S. LEWIS
**ELLIOTT COUNTY
JUDGE EXECUTIVE**
P.O. BOX 710
SANDY HOOK, KY 41171
Phone: (606) 738-5826 • Fax: (606) 738-4509
E-mail: ejudge@mrtc.com

Ky Wildlands Resolution Elliott County, KY

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area System, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture, and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and




MYRON S. LEWIS
**ELLIOTT COUNTY
JUDGE EXECUTIVE**
P.O. BOX 710
SANDY HOOK, KY 41171
Phone: (606) 738-5826 • Fax: (606) 738-4509
E-mail: ejudge@mrtc.com

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Elliott County contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Elliott County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Myron S. Lewis
Elliott County Judge Executive

APPENDIX D.11 FLOYD COUNTY



Telephone (606) 886-9193
TDD 810-648-6056

Robert Williams
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE of FLOYD COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY
Floyd County Fiscal Court
149 South Central Avenue - Suite 9
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653



Fax (606) 886-1083

May 31, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

Kentucky Wildlands
2292 S. Hwy 27
Somerset, KY 42501

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as a letter of intent to support the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation. Further, it is the intent of the Fiscal Court to actively participate through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

As County Judge Executive, I can attest to the fact that Floyd County contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia. From the Middle Creek Battlefield to Jenny Wiley State Park and the biking and hiking trails in between, Floyd County's unique beauty is clearly evident.

Should there be need for additional information, do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Robbie Williams
Floyd County Judge Executive



Floyd County Fiscal Court is committed to providing safe, decent and affordable housing for low-income clients with special needs.



APPENDIX D.12 HARLAN COUNTY

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia, and

Whereas, the County of Harlan contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia, and

Be it therefore resolved that the Harlan County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Dan Mosley
Harlan County Judge/Executive

APPENDIX D.13 JACKSON COUNTY

RESOLUTION 04142022 IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West", and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the Jackson County Fiscal Court contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the Jackson County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in it's application to the National Park Service for

a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Shane Gabbard
Judge Executive

4-14-22

Date



Donald Moore
County Clerk to Attest

APPENDIX D.14 JOHNSON COUNTY

RESOLUTION 22-036

COUNTY OF JOHNSON

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia, and

Whereas, Johnson County contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia with its many walking, biking and horse trails, parks, lakes, rivers and streams, and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Fiscal Court of Johnson County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Done this 9th day of May, 2022. Motion by Kathy Adams and seconded by Mike Jarrell.

Members present voting unanimously in favor 2

BY:

[Signature]
County Judge/Executive

ATTEST:

Sally Holbrook
Clerk

May 9, 2022

WHEREAS, the Johnson County Fiscal Court has submitted a Resolution for the National Heritage Area Designation, for the approval by the court.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the approval of the Resolution for the National Heritage Area Designation, is so approved.


MARK MCKENZIE
COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Dated this 9th day of May, 2022

MOTION BY Kathy Adams

SECOND BY Mike Jarrell

VOTE unanimously

The undersigned Clerk states that the above Order was duly adopted and Order Number 22-056
By the Johnson County Fiscal Court on the date first above written.


SELMA HALBROOK
FISCAL COURT CLERK

APPENDIX D.15 KNOTT COUNTY

Knott County Fiscal Court

Jeff Dobson
Judge Executive
P.O. Box 505
54 West Main St
Hindman KY 41822



Telephone: (606) 785-5592
Fax: (606) 785-0966
jdobson@knottky.com

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Knott County Fiscal Court

Jeff Dobson
Judge Executive
P.O. Box 505
54 West Main St
Hindman KY 41822



Telephone: (606) 785-5592
Fax: (606) 785-0966
jdobson@knottky.com

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re- developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of KNOTT contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of KNOTT fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

KNOTT COUNTY JUDGE EXEC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Dobson".

JEFF DOBSON

APPENDIX D.16. KNOX COUNTY

RESOLUTION #20220323-01

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Knox contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia,

Now, therefore, I, Mike Mitchell, Knox County Judge-Executive endorse and support this project in collaboration with other surrounding eastern counties,

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/city council of Knox fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Parks Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

APPENDIX D.17 LAUREL COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2022-02

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together

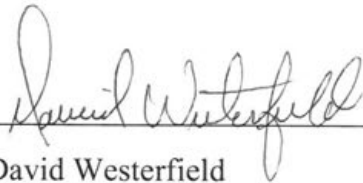
began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the **County of Laurel** contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia. Boone Trace runs all thru Laurel County, making it rich in history and natural resources.

Whereas, **Laurel County’s** beautiful landscape has helped promote it as a popular tourist destination.

Be it therefore resolved that the **Laurel County Fiscal Court** fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



David Westerfield

Laurel County Judge Executive

5-26-2022

Date

APPENDIX D.18 LAWRENCE COUNTY

RESOLUTION 22-06

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become KY, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

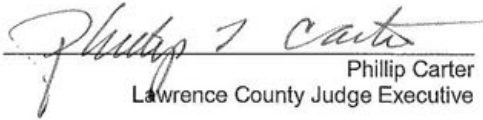
Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,


Whereas, the County of Lawrence County, Kentucky contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/city council of Lawrence County, Kentucky fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Services for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, LAWRENCE COUNTY

I, CHRIS JOBE, Fiscal Court Clerk of Lawrence County certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Order above, given under my hand and seal of office this the 24 day of MAY, 2022.

BY: 
Phillip Carter
Lawrence County Judge Executive

ATTEST: 
Chris Jobe
Lawrence County Clerk

APPENDIX D.19 LEE COUNTY



Lee County Judge Executive
Charles Caudill JR.

256 MAIN STREET/ PO BOX G
BEATTYVILLE, KENTUCKY 41311

March 24, 2022

OFFICE 606-464-4100
CELL 732-239-8397
leekyjudge@gmail.com

Resolution# 2022-04R

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS, Lee County is part of the heritage, natural beauty and history of Central Appalachia,

RESOLVED, the Lee County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.


Charles F. Caudill Jr

APPENDIX D.20 LETCHER COUNTY



Letcher County Fiscal Court

156 Main Street, Suite 107
Whitesburg, Kentucky 41858

Terry Adams, Letcher County Judge Executive

Phone: 606-633-2129
FAX: 606-633-7105

MAGISTRATES:

Jack Banks, District 1 • Sherry Sexton, District 2
Maverick Cook, District 3 • William C. Smith, District 4 • Bennie McCall, District 5

Resolution 2022-38

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Letcher contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Letcher fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Terry Adams



Letcher County Judge/Executive

APPENDIX D.21 LINCOLN COUNTY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

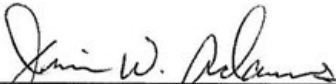
developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Lincoln contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia.

Whereas, Be it therefore resolved that the Lincoln County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Jim W. Adams
Judge/Executive

APPENDIX D.22 MAGOFFIN COUNTY

RESOLUTION - No. 2022-05

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system;

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources;

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage;

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore;

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage;

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination;

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contain the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West,";

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River;

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Kentucky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans;

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia;

Whereas, the County of Magoffin, contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia with its rolling hills and countryside appeal; Pioneer Village located in downtown Salyersville; Dawkins Trail located on the southern portion of the county; and coming soon, an ATV trail system;

Be it therefore resolved that the Magoffin County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

DONE THIS THE 23rd DAY OF MAY, 2022. Motion by Darrell Howard and seconded by Pernell Lemaster, members present voting unanimously in favor.

By:



Matthew C. Wireman

Magoffin County Judge Executive

ATTEST:

By: Renee Shepherd

Title Magp Fiscal Ct. Clerk

APPENDIX D.23 MARTIN COUNTY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

2022-04-21-02-R

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Martin contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia with historic sites like Himmlerville and the Historic Martin County Courthouse, and amenities like hiking, trail riding, and elk viewing just to name a few,

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Martin County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Signed this 21st day of April, 2022.



Martin County Judge/Executive


Court Clerk

APPENDIX D.24 MCCREARY COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE/EXECUTIVE
McCREARY COUNTY
1 NORTH MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 579
WHITLEY CITY, KENTUCKY 42653
(606) 376-2413



JIMMIE W. GREENE II
COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

FAX: (606) 376-9499
TDD: 1-800-247-2510

MCCREARY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
RESOLUTION NUMBER 220414-1
IN SUPPORT OF
National Heritage Area Designation

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

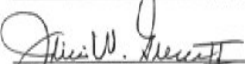
Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

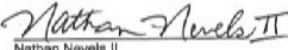
Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, McCreary County, with its many soaring stone arches and majestic waterfalls contributes to the natural beauty, heritage, and history of Appalachia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fiscal Court of McCreary County this 14th day of April 2022, fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Done this 14th day of April 2022, on a motion made by Bill Hale, seconded by Bobby Strunk, with all members voting Yes.


Jimmie W. Greene II
McCreary County


Nathan Nevels II
Fiscal Court Clerk

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

APPENDIX D.25 MENIFEE COUNTY

Whereas, the National Park Service is eval the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient fossils, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12, 000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, Menifee County contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia. Menifee County is located in the center of the Daniel Boone National Forrest with Cave Run Lake on one side and the Red River Gorge on the other, which allows us to witness the natural beauty of Appalachia,

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Menifee County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnership where appropriate to achieve that end.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Stiltner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Stiltner,
Menifee County Judge Executive

APPENDIX D.26 METCALFE COUNTY

RESOLUTION 22-0524

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION OF THE KENTUCKY WILDLANDS.

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture, and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the Warrior's Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Kentucky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of

1776, together began the "Westward Movement," when the citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS, THE COUNTY OF METCALFE CONTRIBUTES TO THE HERITAGE, NATURAL BEAUTY AND HISTORY (ETC.) OF APPALACHIA,

WHEREAS, Be it therefore resolved that the Fiscal Court of Metcalfe County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Adopted this 24th day of May, 2022.


Metcalfe County Judge Executive

Attested by:


Fiscal Court Clerk

APPENDIX D.27 PERRY COUNTY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF National Heritage Area Designation (NHAD)

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Perry contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia (Please write your own "Whereas")

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Perry County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

4-5-23

Date

Dannah Nullis
Attest


County Judge Executive

APPENDIX D.28 PIKE COUNTY

ORDER
OF THE
PIKE COUNTY FISCAL COURT

MAY 24, 2022

ORD. NO. 05.24.22.002

IN RE: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE KENTUCKY
WILDLANDS AND EASTERN KENTUCKY PRIDE'S APPLICATION TO
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Upon motion by Commissioner Brian Booth and second by Commissioner Ronnie Robertson, THE PIKE COUNTY FISCAL COURT HEREBY ADOPTS a resolution supporting the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE's application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation.

Resolution of

The Pike County Fiscal Court

Supporting the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE's application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system; and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States; and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources; and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing usage; and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture, and folklore; and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage; and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination; and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West;" and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled

through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River; and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Kentucky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans; and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia; and

Whereas, Pike County is one of the most beautiful and historic places in the nation and contributes to the heritage, natural beauty, and history of Appalachia. Pike County was named for General Zebulon Pike, the explorer who discovered Pikes Peak. Daniel Boone’s first steps in Kentucky are located on Ky. 80 in Elkhorn City. We are the homeplace of the world’s most famous feud, the Hatfield’s and the McCoy’s. The Pikeville Cut-through Project, the second largest earthmoving project in the Western Hemisphere, is located in Pikeville. The Country Music Highway runs through Pike County and six other eastern Kentucky counties and features musical talent that has developed from these Appalachia hills. The “Grand Canyon of the South”, the Breaks Interstate Park, provides visitors from around the world with magnificent breath-taking views, hiking, and camping opportunities. The park is located in southeastern Pike County and southwestern Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Ray S. Jones, II, Pike County Judge/Executive and the Pike County Fiscal Court do hereby fully support the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

Judge/Executive Ray S. Jones, II	Yes
Commissioner Ronnie Robertson	Yes
Commissioner Jason Tackett	Yes
Commissioner Brian Booth	Yes

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.



PIKE COUNTY FISCAL COURT BY AND THROUGH
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE RAY S. JONES, II

ATTEST:



FISCAL COURT CLERK

APPENDIX D.29 ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

ROCKCASTLE FISCAL COURT

P.O. Box 755

Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

PHONE: 606-256-2856

FAX: 606-256-8104

EMAIL: Wcoffey@rockcastlecountyky.com

County Judge Executive: **Howell Holbrook Jr.**

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system.

The Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore.

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re- developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River.

The opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia.

The County of Rockcastle contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of the area and supports improvements made to the beauty of our county. Rockcastle fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Thank You,



Howell Holbrook Jr.
Rockcastle County Judge Executive

APPENDIX D.30 ROWAN COUNTY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources worthy of national recognition and representing distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by beginning a tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS, Rowan County, nestled in the Daniel Boone National Forest, is home to the Musky Capital of the South, the northern beginnings of the Sheltolee Trace Trail, and unique historical venues, contributing to the heritage, natural beauty, and history of Appalachia,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Rowan County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



HARRY T. CLARK

Rowan Co. Judge/Executive

APPENDIX D.31 RUSSELL COUNTY

RESOLUTION 22-09

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become KY, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Russell contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved that the Russell County Fiscal Court fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end



Gary D. Robertson, County Judge Executive

APPENDIX D.32 WAYNE COUNTY

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Wayne contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/city council of Wayne fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



County Judge/Executive



Fiscal Court Clerk

APPENDIX D.33 WHITLEY COUNTY



3

WHITLEY COUNTY FISCAL COURT

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-06

RESOLUTION # 2022-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF WHITLEY, KENTUCKY AUTHORIZING THE JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forest, cliff, lakes, culture and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the Warrior's Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became American's, and.

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS, the County of WHITLEY contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved the Fiscal Court of Whitley County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Done this 19th day of April, 2022 on a Motion made by

Jacob

And seconded by

Harrison

APPENDIX D.34 WOLFE COUNTY

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County of Wolfe contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court of Wolfe County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. G. B. M. 4-6-22".

County Judge

Approved April 5, 2022

APPENDIX D.35 CITY OF ASHLAND (BOYD COUNTY)

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION BY
MATTHEW B. PERKINS, MAYOR
CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY**

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural historic, and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, Interpretation and continuing usage; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development by promoting it as a regional tourism destination; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew B. Perkins, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Kentucky in Boyd County do hereby support National Heritage Area Designation from the National Park Service.

Be it therefore resolved that the City of Ashland Kentucky in Boyd County fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation.

Respectively,



Matthew B. Perkins
Mayor
City of Ashland, KY

APPENDIX D.36 CITY OF BARBOURVILLE (KNOX COUNTY)

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-1

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BARBOURVILLE IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

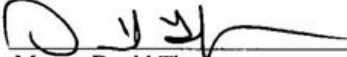
Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

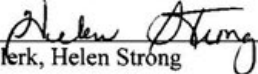
Whereas, the City of Barbourville contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of the Appalachia area.

Now therefore be it resolved that the city council of the City of Barbourville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end result.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2022.

By: 
Mayor, David Thompson

ATTEST:

By: 
City Clerk, Helen Strong

APPENDIX D.37 CITY OF BEATTYVILLE (LEE COUNTY)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Beattyville contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia by offering our support and encouragement.

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Beattyville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Edward Scott Gasser
Mayor

4-12-2022
Date

Lois Gilbert
Attest

4/12/22
Date

APPENDIX D.38 CITY OF BENHAM (HARLAN COUNTY)

**THE CITY OF BENHAM
PO BOX E/ 230 MAIN STREET
BENHAM, KY 40823
606-848-5506/0fax 606-894-0034
cityofbenham@gmail.com
Howard White, Mayor**

May 12, 2022

TO: John Fox
Eastern Kentucky PRIDE
KY Wildlands

REGARDING: The city's letter of intent

This is to inform all parties involved that the City of Benham, Mayor Howard White, and members of the city council is in full support of the initiative to achieve a National Heritage Area Designation from the National Park Service.

Whereas, the City of Benham contributes to the heritage, natural beauty, history, and revitalization of Eastern Kentucky, being nestled quietly in the Kentucky Wildlands, its gorgeous Looney Creek Trail river-walk along the old L&N railbed and 100 + year old buildings originally built by International Harvester in the early 1900s, take you on a journey through time and right into the heart of "coal country".

Sincerely,
Howard White, Mayor

cc/sd

APPENDIX D.39 CITY OF BEREA (MADISON COUNTY)

RESOLUTION 05-2022

In Support of National Heritage Area Designation

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and


Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, Boone Trace runs through the City of Berea and clearly contributes to the heritage, natural beauty, and history of Appalachia;

Be it therefore resolved that the City Council of Berea, Kentucky fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Signed: 
Bruce Fraley, Mayor, Berea, KY

Date: may 17, 2022

APPENDIX D.40 CITY OF BOONEVILLE (OWSLEY COUNTY)

CITY OF BOONEVILLE
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become KY, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of BOONEVILLE contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia and

Whereas, Booneville is located on the South Fork of Kentucky River, site was once known as Boones Station, Daniel Boone having once camped in the area, the area is enriched with natural beauty, and Booneville was incorporated in 1846.

Be it therefore resolved that the city commission of Booneville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Mayor Nelson Bobrowski



Date

APPENDIX D.41 CITY OF BURKESVILLE (CUMBERLAND COUNTY)

City of Burkesville Resolution 2022-4

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich

Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

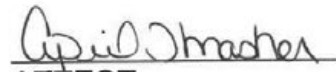
Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Burkesville contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Burkesville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Passed on this date: May 26th, 2022.


ATTEST:


Mayor

APPENDIX D.42 CITY OF BURNSIDE (PULASKI COUNTY)

RESOLUTION 2022-004

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County/City of Burnside contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia,

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/city council of Burnside fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Signed:  Mayor Pro Temp

Robert Lawson, Mayor of City of Burnside

APPENDIX D.43 CITY OF CATLETTSBURG (BOYD COUNTY)

RESOLUTION No. 1, 2022
City of Catlettsburg

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich

Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

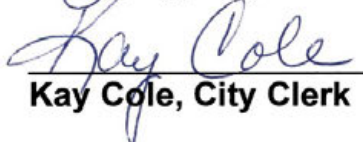
Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Catlettsburg contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia. We support this cause.

Be it therefore resolved that the Mayor and City Council of Catlettsburg, fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Faith Day, Mayor



Kay Cole, City Clerk

APPENDIX D.44 CITY OF CORBIN (LAUREL, KNOX, AND WHITLEY COUNTIES)

NHAD RESOLUTION

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the KY Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, East Kentucky Pride has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, East Kentucky Pride is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the KY Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Corbin contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia;

Whereas, Corbin is home to a natural wonder of the world, Cumberland Falls State Park, the only place in the world that you can view the Moonbow;

Whereas, Corbin is home to the Daniel Boone National Forest and a large portion of the Shelton Trace National Recreation Trail as well as the Laurel River Lake which is a 5,600 acre reservoir that produces hydroelectricity;

Whereas, Corbin is rich in heritage and history and has four structures that sit on the National Registry of Historic Place- Sanders Café and Museum, Engineer Street Bridge, L&N Railroad Passenger Depot and the Carnegie Library of Corbin;

Whereas Corbin is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage in the city through the formation of the Historic Preservation Board;

Whereas, Corbin houses the last remaining steam engine in the world to be handcrafted by the L&N that has been fully restored to its grand luster;

Whereas, Corbin is a city that is part of the Kentucky Wildlands;

Whereas, Corbin is home to farm to table restaurants that utilize locally grown crops in their dishes;

Whereas, Corbin houses the Pinball Museum of Corbin, which preserves and educates about the history of pinball machines;

Whereas, the City of Corbin hosts events that preserve and educate about our Appalachian heritage

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Corbin fully supports the KY Wildlands and East KY Pride in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Mayor

05/16/2022

Date

APPENDIX D.45 CITY OF EDMONTON (METCALFE COUNTY)

RESOLUTION #2021-22-05

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Edmonton contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia,

Now Therefore be it resolved, that the city council of Edmonton fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

ADOPTED on May 9, 2022.

CITY OF EDMONTON


Mayor Doug Smith

ATTEST:


City Clerk

APPENDIX D.46 CITY OF GRAYSON (CARTER COUNTY)

RESOLUTION # 04 -2022 CITY OF GRAYSON, KENTUCKY

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPALACHIAN REGION, ESPECIALLY EASTERN KENTUCKY, AND THE EFFORTS OF EASTERN KENTUCKY PRIDE IN SEEKING A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by the 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West", and

WHEREAS, the Warrior's Path was one of the nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

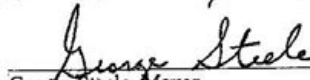
WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Kentucky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Western Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia, and

WHEREAS, the City of Grayson contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia. Now Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Grayson fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Read and approved by the City Council of Grayson, Kentucky, this the 12th day of April, 2022.


George Steele, Mayor

Given under my hand, this 13th day of April, 2022

ATTEST:

Given my signature, I hereby affirm that this is a true and accurate record of legislative action.


Duane Suttles, City Clerk

APPENDIX D.47 CITY OF GREENSBURG (GREEN COUNTY)



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0411

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (NHAD) RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conversation, interpretation and continuing usage; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West"; and

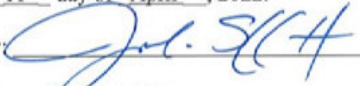
WHEREAS, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River; and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become KY, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776 together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greensburg contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF GREENSBURG fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 11th day of April, 2022.

By: 

Name: John Shuffett

Title: Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk

APPENDIX D.48 CITY OF HARLAN (HARLAN COUNTY)

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

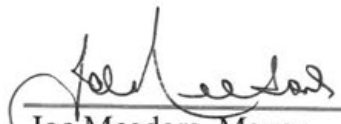
developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Harlan contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Harlan fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end



Joe Meadors, Mayor

Attest: 

Carla Jones, City Clerk

APPENDIX D.49 CITY OF INEZ (MARTIN COUNTY)

CITY OF INEZ RESOLUTION 2022-01 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

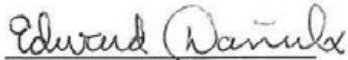
WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS, the City of Inez contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia.

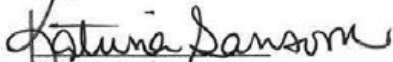
THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Inez fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

This resolution was adopted this 12th day of May 2022, by motion of Commissioner Hall, 2nd by Commissioner R. Wells, and a roll call vote Commission of the City of Inez. Mayor Daniels, , Commissioner Hall, , Commissioner Fraley, , Commissioner R. Wells, , and Commissioner L. Wells, .



Edward Daniels

Mayor



Katrina L. Sansom,
City Clerk/Treasurer

APPENDIX D.50 CITY OF LIBERTY (CASEY COUNTY)

Liberty City Council RESOLUTION NO 22-R-01

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become KY, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Liberty supports and contributes to the natural beauty and history of Appalachia.

be it resolved that the city council of Liberty fully supports the Kentucky
and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a
Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public
means where appropriate to achieve that end.

10th day of May, 2022. Motion by Richard Montgomery, seconded by Brian Beeler
and members present voting in favor.



Mr Steven Brown



City Clerk

APPENDIX D.51 CITY OF LIVINGSTON (ROCKCASTLE COUNTY)



City of Livingston

P.O. Box 654

Livingston, KY 40445

(606) 453-2061

cityoflivingston@windstream.net

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system.

The Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore.

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, 12,000 year-old path of commerce that begin on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River.

The opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Kentucky, combined with the Declaration of Independence in 1776, together began the "Westward Moment," when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia.

The City of Livingston contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of the area and supports improvements made to the beauty of our city. The City of Livingston fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwane A. King".

Mayor Dwane A. King
City of Livingston

APPENDIX D.52 CITY OF LYNCH (HARLAN COUNTY)

Resolution 04192022

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

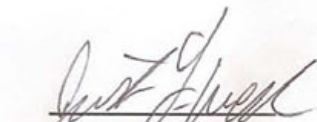
Whereas, the City of Lynch contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Lynch fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage

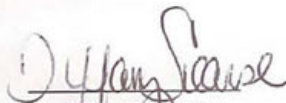
Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Roger Wilhoit ✓
Winston Yeary A
Bobby Goins ✓

Bennie Massey ✓
Carl Collins A
Leslie Young ✓


Mayor

04/19/22
Date


City Clerk

04/19/22
Date

APPENDIX D.53 CITY OF MANCHESTER (CLAY COUNTY)


CITY OF MANCHESTER, KENTUCKY RESOLUTION NO. 2022.04.18.01 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION (NHAD)

- Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and
- Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and
- Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and
- Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing usage, and
- Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and
- Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and
- Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and
- Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and
- Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and
- Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,
- Whereas, the City of Manchester, Kentucky contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and

history of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Manchester, Kentucky full supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Approved this 18th day of April 2022.


James Ed Garrison, Mayor


Sarah Gregory Woliver, City Clerk

APPENDIX D.54 CITY OF MCKEE (JACKSON COUNTY)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia, and

WHEREAS, the City of McKee contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia, keeping the rich traditions that have been handed down from generation to generation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the city council of McKee Kentucky fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

APPROVED on 5-26, 2022.

CITY OF MCKEE, KENTUCKY


MAYOR


CITY CLERK

APPENDIX D.55 CITY OF MONTICELLO (WAYNE COUNTY)



City of Monticello

Regular Meeting Second Monday Night Each Month
POST OFFICE BOX 550
MONTICELLO, KENTUCKY 42633
TELEPHONE: (606) 348-0167 - FAX (606) 348-0267



MAYOR:
TRACIE SEXTON
(606) 348-5719

CITY COUNCIL:
KNOX BERTRAM
TIM PYLES
ALLAN HOPPER
CODY DISHMAN
SCOTT GEHRING
ALLEN DENNY

CITY ATTORNEY:
GORDON T. GERMAIN
(606) 348-9394

CLERK-TREASURER:
GREGORY E. LATHAM
(606) 348-0071

FIRE CHIEF:
JERRY S. FERRELL
(606) 348-5552

POLICE CHIEF:
JOSEPH HOOVER
(606) 348-9313

TDD: 1-800-247-2510

June 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as notice that the City of Monticello is in support of designating "The Kentucky Wildlands" as a National Heritage Area Designation (NHAD) from the National Park Service (NPS). It is our opinion that the Kentucky Wildlands area exceeds the criteria needed to achieve this designation.

The Kentucky Wildlands area contains natural, historic and cultural resources which are of national importance and worthy of recognition and conservation. The area is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore.

For the above reasons, the City of Monticello fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end. Furthermore, at our next City Council meeting, on June 13th, 2022, I will present a resolution in support of this designation to the City Council.

Sincerely,

Tracie Sexton,
Monticello Mayor

APPENDIX D.56 CITY OF MT. VERNON (ROCKCASTLE COUNTY)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Mt. Vernon contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/city council of Mt. Vernon fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Mike Bryant, Mayor of Mt. Vernon

05/26/2008
Date

APPENDIX D.57 CITY OF OLIVE HILL (CARTER COUNTY)

RESOLUTION 2022-01 IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Olive Hill contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia,

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Olive Hill fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National

Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Passed and adopted by the City this 17 day of May, 2022.



Jerry Callahan, Mayor

APPENDIX D.58 CITY OF PAINTSVILLE (JOHNSON COUNTY)

RESOLUTION 2022-002

In Support of National Heritage Area Designation

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluation the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area System, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture, and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was the one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000-year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of the Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and become Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Paintsville contributes to the heritage, natural beauty, and history of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Paintsville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Bill M. Runyon, Mayor

APPENDIX D.59 CITY OF PIKESVILLE (PIKE COUNTY)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

areas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

areas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

areas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

areas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage,

areas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, including ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

areas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's scenic beauty and rich heritage, and

areas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

areas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

areas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

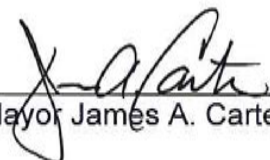
developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Pikeville contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia by being the location of the commissioning of James A. Garfield, a future United States President, as a U.S. Army Brigadier General during the Civil War, the location of many sites directly involved with the Hatfield-McCoy Feud including the York House and Pike County Courthouse and being the site of the Pikeville Cut-Through project that moved a mountain and railroad and rerouted a river, which directly resulted in Pikeville's growth over the past 30 or more years and economic development,

Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the City of Pikeville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Mayor James A. Carter

APPENDIX D.60 CITY OF PINEVILLE (BELL COUNTY)

Resolution No. 2022-07 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Pineville contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia,

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Pineville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Adopted by the Pineville City Council this 11th day of April 2022.

APPENDIX D.61 CITY OF SALYERSVILLE (MAGOFFIN COUNTY)

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NHAD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the County/City of Salversville contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (ETC.) of Appalachia (Please write your own "Whereas")

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal court/city council of Salversville fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

APPENDIX D.62 CITY OF SOMERSET (PULASKI COUNTY)

RESOLUTION 22-09

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-

developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Somerset contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal city council of Somerset fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Mayor Alan Keck



Attested by Nick Bradley, City Clerk

APPENDIX D.63 CITY OF STANFORD (LINCOLN COUNTY)

City of Stanford, Kentucky RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF National Heritage Area Designation

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

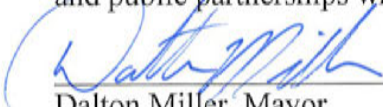
Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the “Westward Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Stanford has a rich history of heritage, natural beauty and is significant in the history of Appalachia,

Be it therefore resolved, that the city council of the City of Stanford, Kentucky fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



Dalton Miller, Mayor
The City of Stanford, KY

Attest: 

Jone Allen, OKMC

APPENDIX D.64 CITY OF WARFIELD (MARTIN COUNTY)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SYSTEM

RESOLUTION 2022-001

CITY OF WARFIELD

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward

Movement”, when citizens stopped being British and became Americans,
and

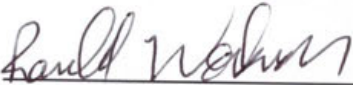
Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and
triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,
and

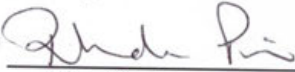
Whereas, the City of Warfield contributes to the heritage, natural beauty
and history of Appalachia.

Be it therefore resolved that the city commission of Warfield fully
supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its
application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area
Designation and will participate actively through private and public
partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Done this 26th day of May, 2022 on a motion made by Robert Bell II ,
and seconded by Michael Hinkle.

Votes in favor 5
Votes against 0

By 
Mayor

ATTEST 
City Clerk

APPENDIX D.65 CITY OF WEST LIBERTY (MORGAN COUNTY)

NHAD Support Resolution
Of the City of West Liberty

Resolution # 052322-01

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being redeveloped as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of

Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of West Liberty contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history (etc.) of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of West Liberty fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Attest:



Amy Cox, City Clerk



Mark Walter, Mayor

APPENDIX D.66 CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG (WHITLEY COUNTY) – UNSIGNED

City of Williamsburg, Kentucky Resolution No. 22-001

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture, and folklore, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

WHEREAS, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

WHEREAS, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

WHEREAS, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

WHEREAS, the City of Williamsburg contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia with the Cumberland River flowing through the city allowing for outdoor recreation such as boating, fishing and camping. Our boat ramp downtown is often used by Cumberland Falls Sheltowee Trace as one of their many water adventures.

Be it therefore resolved that the city council of Williamsburg fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.

Enacted this _____ day of _____, 2022

Roddy Harrison, Mayor

Attest: Teresa Black, City Clerk

This page intentionally blank.

APPENDIX E: LIST OF HABITAT, WILDLIFE, AND RARE SPECIES

Table E-1. Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Wildlife Resources Occurring or Potentially Occurring in the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Area (USFWS 2023)

Common Name Scientific Name	Federal Status	Critical Habitat Known within the Study Area?
Flowering Plants		
Cumberland Rosemary <i>Conradina verticillata</i>	Threatened	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Cumberland Sandwort	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Northeastern Bulrush <i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Short's Bladderpod <i>Physaria globosa</i>	Endangered	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area.
Short's Goldenrod <i>Solidago shortii</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Virginia Spiraea <i>Spiraea virginiana</i>	Threatened	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
White Fringeless Orchid <i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	Threatened	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Clams		
Appalachian Monkeyface (pearlymussel) <i>Theliderma sparsa</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Birdwing Pearlymussel <i>Lemiox rimosus</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Clubshell <i>Pleurobema clava</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Cracking Pearlymussel <i>Hemistena lata</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Cumberland Bean (pearlymussel) <i>Villosa trabalis</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Cumberland Elktoe <i>Alasmidonta atropurpurea</i>	Endangered	Yes
Cumberlandian Combshell <i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>	Endangered	Yes
Dromedary Pearlymussel <i>Dromus dromas</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Fanshell <i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Finerayed Pigtoe <i>Fusconiaia cuneolus</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Common Name Scientific Name	Federal Status	Critical Habitat Known within the Study Area?
Fluted Kidneyshell <i>Ptychobranchnus subtentus</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Littlewing Pearlymussel <i>Pegias fabula</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Longsolid <i>Fusconia subrotunda</i>	Threatened	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area.
Northern Riffleshell <i>Epioblasma rangiana</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Orangefoot Pimpleback (pearlymussel) <i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Oyster Mussel <i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>	Endangered	Yes
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Purple Bean <i>Villosa perpurpurea</i>	Endangered	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area.
Purple Cat's Paw (pearlymussel) <i>Epioblasma obliquata</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica</i>	Threatened	Yes
Rayed Bean <i>Villosa fabalis</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Ring Pink (mussel) <i>Obovaria retusa</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Rough Pigtoe <i>Pleurobema plenum</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Rough Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica strigillata</i>		Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area.
Round Hickorynut <i>Obovaria subrotunda</i>	Threatened	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area.
Sheepnose mussel <i>Plethogasus cyphus</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Shiny Pigtoe <i>Fusconaia cor</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Slabside Pearlymussel <i>Pleuronaia dolabelloides</i>	Endangered	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area
Snuffbox Mussel <i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Endangered	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area

Common Name Scientific Name	Federal Status	Critical Habitat Known within the Study Area?
Spectaclecase (mussel) <i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Tan Riffleshell <i>Epioblasma florentina walkeri</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Insects		
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Crustaceans		
Big Sandy Crayfish <i>Cambarus callainus</i>	Threatened	Yes
Kentucky Cave Shrimp <i>Palaemonias ganteri</i>	Endangered	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area
Fish		
Blackside Dace <i>Phoxinus cumberlandensis</i>	Threatened	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Cumberland Darter <i>Etheostoma susanae</i>	Endangered	Yes
Duskytail Darter <i>Etheostoma percnum</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Kentucky Arrow Darter <i>Etheostoma spilotum</i>	Threatened	Yes
Palezone Shiner <i>Notropis albizonatus</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Slender Chub <i>Erimystax cahni</i>	Threatened	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area
Tuxedo Darter <i>Etheostoma lemniscatum</i>	Endangered	Yes
Yellowfin Madtom <i>Noturus flavipinnis</i>	Threatened	Critical habitat has been designated for this species; however, critical habitat does not occur within the study area
Mammals		
Gray Bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	Yes
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species

Common Name Scientific Name	Federal Status	Critical Habitat Known within the Study Area?
Virginia Big-eared Bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Endangered	No critical habitat has been designated for this species

Note: Details regarding status, habitat affinity, and other ecological factors are available in the US Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Conservation Online System. Sources: USFWS 2023; Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023.

Table E-2. Species of Greatest Conservation Need within the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Area That Do Not Have a Federal Status and Are Monitored for Statewide Conservation Efforts

Common Name Scientific Name	State Status	Notes
Lichens		
Lea's Bog Lichen <i>Phaeophyscia leana</i>	Endangered	
Flowering Plants		
Rivergrass, Cumberland Sandreed <i>Calamovilfa arcuata</i>	None	Needs status surveys (Kentucky DFWR 2023)
Roan Mountain Sedge <i>Carex roanensis</i>	Endangered	
Rockcastle Wood-aster <i>Eurybia saxicastellii</i>	Threatened	
Cumberland Sandwort <i>Minuartia cumberlandensis</i>	Endangered	Delisted from Federal listing (2021)
Canby's Mountain-lover <i>Paxistima canbyi</i>	Threatened	
Hairy Skullcap <i>Scutellaria arguta</i>	Endangered	
White-haired Goldenrod <i>Solidago albopilosa</i>	Threatened	
Cutleaf Meadow-parsnip <i>Thaspium pinnatifidum</i>	Threatened	
Running Buffalo Clover <i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i>	Threatened	Delisted from Federal listing (2021)
Snails		
Shortspire Hornsnail <i>Pleurocera curta</i>	Special Concern	
Domed Ancyloid <i>Rhodacmea elatior</i>	Special Concern	
Pine Mountain Tigersnail <i>Anguispira rugoderma</i>	Endangered	
Clifty Covert <i>Fumonelix wetherbyi</i>	Special Concern	
Maryland Glyph <i>Glyphyalinia raderi</i>	Special Concern	

Common Name Scientific Name	State Status	Notes
Punctate Coil <i>Helicodiscus punctatellus</i>	Special Concern	
Honey Bud (Honey Glyphy) <i>Pilsbryna vanattai</i>	Endangered	
Cupped Vertigo Snail <i>Vertigo clappi</i>	Endangered	
Clams		
Cumberland Papershell <i>Anodontoides denigrata</i>	Endangered	
Tennessee Clubshell <i>Pleurobema oviforme</i>	Endangered	
Pyramid Pigtoe <i>Pleurobema rubrum</i>	Endangered	Proposed for Federal Threatened Status (2021)
Kentucky Creekshell <i>Villosa (Leaunio) ortmanni</i>	Endangered	
Crustaceans		
a freshwater amphipod <i>Crangonyx caecus</i>	Threatened	
a freshwater amphipod <i>Crangonyx castellanum</i>	Endangered	
a freshwater amphipod <i>Crangonyx specus</i>	Endangered	
Big South Fork Crayfish <i>Cambarus bouchardi</i>	Endangered	
Cumberland Plateau Cave Crayfish <i>Orconectes barri</i>	Threatened	
Appalachian Cave Crayfish <i>Orconectes packardi</i>	Threatened	
Jeannel's Cave Ostracod <i>Pseudocandona jeanneli</i>	Endangered	
Millipedes, Centipedes		
a cave obligate millipede <i>Pseudotremia carterensis</i>	Special Concern	
a cave obligate millipede <i>Pseudotremia spira</i>	Special Concern	
Insects		
a flat-headed mayfly <i>Nixe flowersi</i>	Historic	
Kentucky Stone <i>Acroneuria hitchcocki</i>	Threatened	

Common Name Scientific Name	State Status	Notes
Virginia Stone <i>Acroneuria kosztarabi</i>	Threatened	
Karst Snowfly <i>Allocapnia cunninghami</i>	Threatened	
Splendid Stone <i>Hansonoperla hokolesqua</i>	Special Concern	
Karst Forestfly <i>Soyedina calcarea</i>	Endangered	
a lepidostomatid caddisfly <i>Lepidostoma etnieri</i>	None	Needs surveys to locate additional populations (Kentucky DFWR 2023)
a limnephilid caddisfly <i>Manophylax butleri</i>	Special Concern	
Limestone Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus calcareus</i>	Endangered	
Lesser Adams Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus catoryctos</i>	Endangered	
Icebox Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus frigidus</i>	Endangered	
Round-headed Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus globiceps</i>	Endangered	
Stone-dwelling Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus hypolithos</i>	Endangered	
Greater Adams Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus pholeter</i>	Endangered	
Roger's Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus rogersae</i>	Threatened	
Schoolhouse Cave Beetle <i>Pseudanophthalmus scholasticus</i>	Threatened	
a cave obligate beetle <i>Tychobythinus hubrichti</i>	Historic	
Fishes		
Northern Cavefish <i>Amblyopsis spelaea</i>	Special Concern	
Spotted Darter <i>Etheostoma (Nothonotus) maculatum</i>	Threatened	
Buck Darter <i>Etheostoma nebra</i>	Endangered	
Mammals		
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Threatened	Proposed for Endangered Listed Status (2022)

Sources: Kentucky DFWR 2023; US Fish and Wildlife 2023

Selected References



SELECTED REFERENCES

- Abernathy, Greg, Deborah White, Ellis L. Lauder milk, and Marc Evans
2010 *Kentu'ky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press.
- Activist History Review, The
2019 "Claiming Black Lung: Towards an Appalachian Disability Justice. *The Activist History Review*. October 31, 2019.
<https://activisthistory.com/2019/10/31/claiming-black-lung-towards-an-appalachian-disability-justice/>. Accessed August 2023.
- Adelman, Garry, American Battlefield Trust, and Mary Bay Woodside
2010 "A House Divided: Civil War Kentucky." *Hallowed Ground Magazine*. April 16, 2010. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/house-divided-civil-war-kentucky>. Accessed July 2023.
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
n.d. "Heritage Tourism." https://www.achp.gov/index.php/heritage_tourism. Accessed July 2023.
- Ahlman, Todd M., Gail L. Guymon, and Nicholas P. Herrmann
2005 "Archaeological Overview and Assessment of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia." Prepared for the National Park Service. July. <http://npshistory.com/publications/cuga/aoa.pdf>. Accessed August 2023.
- Alexander, J. Trent
2006 "Defining the Diaspora: Appalachians in the Great Migration." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 37(2): 219–247. Autumn.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4139547>. Accessed August 2023.
- Alice Lloyd College
n.d. "Alice Lloyd College Appalachian Entrepreneurial Development Program." <https://www.alc.edu/academics/business-and-entrepreneurship/alice-lloyd-college-appalachian-entrepreneurial-development-program/>. Accessed August 2023.
- American Battlefield Trust
n.d. "Camp Wildcat-Wildcat Mountain." <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/camp-wildcat>. Accessed July 2023.
n.d. "Help Us Save Hallowed Ground in Tennessee and Kentucky." <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/help-us-save-hallowed-ground-tennessee-and-kentucky>. Accessed August 2023.

American Folklife Center

- n.d. "About the Project." *The Lomax Kentucky Recordings*.
<https://lomaxky.omeka.net/abot>. Accessed August 2023.

American Trails

- n.d. National Recreation Trail & National Water Trail Database.
<https://www.nrtapplication.org/trails?p=NRTDatabase/index.html>. Accessed August 2023.

Appalachian Artisan Center

- n.d. "Appalachian School of Luthiery." <https://www.artisancenter.net/appalachian-school-of-luthiery>. Accessed August 2023.
- n.d. "Culture of Recovery." <https://www.artisancenter.net/culture-of-recovery>. Accessed August 2023.

Appalachian Regional Commission

- 2023 "Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative." <https://www.arc.gov/power/>. Accessed August 2023.

Appalachian Strings

- n.d. "A History of the Appalachian Dulcimer." <https://www.appalachianstrings.net/a-history-of-the-appalachian-dulcimer>. Accessed August 2023.

AppalReD Legal Aid

- n.d. "Our History." <https://www.ardfky.org/node/7/our-history>. Accessed August 2023.

Appalshop

- 2023 "Join Us for the 37th Annual Seedtime on the Cumberland Festival." *Appalshop News*. Feb. 5, 2023. <https://appalshop.org/news/join-us-for-the-37th-annual-seedtime-on-the-cumberland-festival>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 "Record Label." <https://appalshop.org/what-we-do/record-label>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 "What We Do." <https://appalshop.org/what-we-do>. Accessed August 2023.

Backroads of Appalachia

- 2023 "About Us." <https://backroadsofappalachia.org/about/>. Accessed August 2023.

Banks, Alan J.

- 1980 "Land and Capital in Eastern Kentucky, 1890–1915." *Appalachian Journal* 8(1): 8–18. Autumn. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40932355>. Accessed August 2023.

Baxter, David

- 1995 "Lair, John, House and Stables." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Washington DC: US Department of Interior, National Park Service.

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/55716776-741f-4e5d-8544-6dbf3aa0a1be>.
Accessed August 2023.

Beckford, Jack

- 2020 “SHC in Mud Creek, Kentucky.” *Student Health Coalition*.
<https://studenthealthcoalition.org/stories/shc-in-mud-creek-kentucky/>.
Accessed August 2023.

Berea College

- n.d. “Council of Southern Mountains Records, 1912–1970: Collection Overview.”
Berea College Special Collections and Archives Catalog.
<https://berea.libraryhost.com/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=3>.
Accessed October 2023.
- n.d. “Leonard Roberts Papers, 1950–1983: Collection Overview.” *Berea College
Special Collections and Archives Catalog*.
<https://berea.libraryhost.com/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=57#abstract>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 “Brushy Fork Leadership Institute.” <https://www.berea.edu/brushy-fork-institute>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 “Strategic Initiatives.” <https://www.berea.edu/strategic-initiatives>. Accessed August 2023.

Bhatraju, Kiran

- 2014 “The Mother Teresa of Mud Creek: The Forgotten Legacy of the War on
Poverty.” *LEO Weekly*. February 19, 2014.
<https://www.leoweekly.com/2014/02/the-mother-teresa-of-mud-creek/>.
Accessed August 2023.

Big South Fork Scenic Railway

- 2023 “Our Story.” <https://bsfsry.com/our-story/>. Accessed August 2023.

Booker, Emily

- 2015 “Appalachian Studies as an Academic and Activist Field, 1970–1982.” (master’s
thesis) East Tennessee State University. <https://dc.etsu.edu/etd/2488>. Accessed
August 2023.

Bradshear, Ivy

- n.d. “Keep Your ‘Elegy’ The Appalachia I Know Is Very Much Alive.” Excerpt from
Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to “Hillbilly Elegy.” The Bitter
Southerner. <https://bittersoutherner.com/keep-your-elegy-the-appalachia-i-know-is-very-much-alive>. Accessed August 2023.

- Buchanan, Reuel, and Philip W. Conn
1982 "Tourism in Eastern Kentucky" *Our Appalachia* "Episodes Archives, 26. Scholarworks @ Morehead State. https://scholarworks.moreheadstate.edu/our_appalachia_archive/26. Accessed August 2023.
- Calloway, Colin G.
1992 "We Have Always Been the Frontier': The American Revolution in Shawnee County." *American Indian Quarterly*, 16(1): 39–52. Winter. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1185604>. Accessed August 2023.
- Childers, Scott
2020 "The WLS National Barn Dance." *WLS History*. <https://www.wlshistory.com/NBD/>. Accessed August 2023.
- Cline, S., and C. Crowley
2018 Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation on Federal Lands (2016). Washington, DC: The US Department of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis.
- Collins, Robert F.
1975 *A History of the Daniel Boone National Forest, 1770–1970*. US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Southern Region. <http://npshistory.com/publications/usfs/region/8/daniel-boone/history/contents.htm>. Accessed August 2023.
- Community Farm Alliance
n.d. "About." <https://cfaky.org/about/mission/>. Accessed July 2023.
- Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum
n.d. "Tom T. Hall." <https://www.countrymusichalloffame.org/hall-of-fame/tom-t-hall>. Accessed August 2023.
- Cowan Creek Music School
2023 "Cowan Creek Music School." <https://cowancreekmusic.org/> Accessed August 2023.
- Dalton, C. David
1982 "Confederate Operations in Eastern Kentucky, 1861–1862." (master's thesis) Western Kentucky University. <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/theses/2081/>. Accessed August 2023.
- Davidson, Matthew
2017 "Iron Furnaces of Kentucky." *30 Days of Kentucky Archaeology*. September 17, 2017. <https://30daysofkentuckyarchaeology.wordpress.com/2017/09/17/iron-furnaces-of-kentucky/>. Accessed August 2023.

East Kentucky African American Migration Project

2023 “About.” <https://blackappalachia.org/about/>. Accessed August 2023.

Filson, John

1784 *The Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentucke*. Available at University of Nebraska-Lincoln Digital Comments.
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=etas>.

Frontline

2006 “A Short History of Kentucky/Central Appalachia.”
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/countryboys/readings/appalachia.html>. Accessed August 2023.

Fugate, Ariel

2021 “The Warrior’s Path Project: Restoring An Ancient Trail Throughout Eastern Kentucky.” *Mountain Association*. November 19, 2021.
<https://mtassociation.org/training-ideas/the-warriors-path-project-restoring-an-ancient-trail-throughout-eastern-kentucky/>. Accessed August 2023.

Gaffney, Austyn

2021 “Eastern Kentucky is posed for an ecotourism boom-but a new resort starts debate.” *National Geographic*. May 25, 2021.
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/kentuckys-red-river-gorge-ecotourism-boom-sparks-debate>. Accessed August 2023.

Gibson, Ron

2020 “A Brief History of the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer.” *Ron Gibson Mountain Dulcimers*. https://gibsondulcimers.com/dulcimer_history.html. Accessed August 2023.

Glen, John M.

1995 “The War on Poverty in Appalachia: Oral History from the “Top down” and the “Bottom up.” *The Oral History Review* 22(1): 67–93. Summer.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4495357>. Accessed August 2023.

Grow Appalachia

2023 “About.” <https://growappalachia.berea.edu/>. Accessed August 2023.

Hazard Community and Technical College

n.d. “Kentucky School of Bluegrass & Traditional Music.”
<http://ksbtm.hazard.kctcs.edu/>. Accessed August 2023.

Henderson, A. Gwynn

1992 “Dispelling the Myth: Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Indian Life in Kentucky.” *The Register of Kentucky Historical Society* 90(1): 1–25.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23382492>. Accessed July 2023.

Henderson, A. Gwynn, and D. Pollack.

2012. "Chapter 17: Kentucky" in *Native America: A State-by-State Historical Encyclopedia*. Daniel S. Murphree ed. Volume 1: 393–440. Greenwood Press, Santa Barbara, CA.

Henderson Settlement

2022 "Our History." <https://www.hendersonsettlement.com/our-history.html>. Accessed August 2023.

Hindman Settlement School

2023 "About Us." <https://hindman.org/about/>. Accessed August 2023.

Historical Marker Database

2013 "Eastern Kentucky's Civil War Battles and Skirmishes, 1863–1864." <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=69145>. Accessed July 2023.

Hopkin, Rachel

2017 "The Critical Conservationist: George Gibson and Patterns of Vernacular Resistance." *Western Folklore*, 76(1): 5–40. Winter. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44790938>. Accessed August 2023.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

2013 Guidelines for Applying Protected Areas Management Categories. Developing capacity for a protected planet. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21. Nigel Dudley, editor. Gland, Switzerland.

Jackson, Savannah

n.d. "The History of the Daniel Boone National Forest." *Rowan County Kentucky*. <https://www.rcky.us/history-of-daniel-boone-national-forest>. Accessed August 2023.

Kemper, J. R; T. W. Frankie, R. A. Smath, J. R. Moody, I. M. Johnson, and R. R. Elkins

1988 "History of Gas Production from Devonian Shale in Eastern Kentucky." Conference: AAPG Eastern Section Meeting, September 13–15, 1988. N.p. <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/5790796>. Accessed August 2023.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

2023 "About Us." <https://archive.kftc.org/about-us/our-history>. Accessed August 2023.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (DFWR)

2023 Kentucky's State Wildlife Action Plan. 1632. Accessed October 2023. <https://app.fw.ky.gov/kyswap/>.

Kentucky Department of Tourism

- 2018 Tourism Economics An Oxford Economics Company for Kentucky Department of Tourism. “Economic Impact of Tourism in Kentucky, 2018.”
https://www.kentuckytourism.com/docs/default-source/research/2018-economic-impact-of-visitors-in-ky.pdf?sfvrsn=81fd9abc_1
- 2023 Tourism Economics, An Oxford Economics Company for Kentucky Department of Tourism. “Economic Impact of Visitors in Kentucky 2022.”
https://www.kentuckytourism.com/media/docs/default-source/research/kentucky-tourism-economic-impact-2022---20220428.pdf?sfvrsn=55ccdedc_1. April 2023..

Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

- n.d. “Kentucky’s Natural Areas.” <https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/Locations/Pages/default.aspx>. Accessed August 2023.
- n.d. “Special-Use Waters.” <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Regs/Pages/SpecialH2O.aspx>. Accessed June 2023.

Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, in partnership with Kentucky Coal Association

- 2017 “Kentucky Coal Facts.”
[https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Coal%20Facts%20%20Annual%20Editions/Kentucky%20Coal%20Facts%20-%2017th%20Edition%20\(2017\).pdf](https://eec.ky.gov/Energy/Coal%20Facts%20%20Annual%20Editions/Kentucky%20Coal%20Facts%20-%2017th%20Edition%20(2017).pdf). Accessed August 2023.

Kentucky Foundation

- 1996 “Historic Context.”
http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/coaltowns/historic_context.htm#towns. Accessed August 2023.
- 1996 “Introduction to Coal Camp Database.”
http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/coaltowns/introduction_to_coal_camp.htm. Accessed August 2023.
- 1996 “Kentucky Coal Heritage Mining Tourism.”
<http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/tourism.htm>. Accessed August 2023.
- 1996 “Timeline of Kentucky Coal.”
<http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/timeline.htm>. Accessed August 2023.

Kentucky Geological Survey

- 2018 “Eastern Kentucky Coal Field.” Accessed August 2023.
<https://www.uky.edu/KGS/geoky/regioneastern.htm>.
- 2020 Kentucky Geological Survey Water Fact Sheet.
<https://www.uky.edu/KGS/Education/factsheet.php>. Accessed August 2023.

Kentucky Heritage Council

- 2008 *The Archeology of Kentucky: An Update*. Vol. 1. David Pollack ed. Available at <https://heritage.ky.gov/Documents/TheArcheologyofKYAnUpdateVol1.pdf>.
- 2022 “Civil War Site Preservation.” <https://heritage.ky.gov/historic-places/military-heritage/Pages/civil-war-sites.aspx>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2022 “Kentucky Main Street Program.” <https://heritage.ky.gov/community/main-street/Pages/overview.aspx>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 “Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission.” <https://heritage.ky.gov/aana/Pages/na-commission.aspx>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 *A Toolbox for Saving Ourselves: The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Plan 2023–2027*. Accessed October 2023. <https://heritage.ky.gov/Documents/2023%20KY%20State%20Plan%20with%20Appendices.pdf>

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

- 2023 “Our Work.” <https://knlt.org/our-work/>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 “Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor.” <https://knlt.org/pmwc/>. Accessed August 2023.

Kentucky Proud

- 2023 “Appalachia Proud: Mountains of Potential.” <https://www.kyproud.com/programs/appalachia-proud>. Accessed July 2023.

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC)

- 2009 Natural communities of Kentucky. Frankfort, Kentucky in Yahn, B.
- 2015 “In the Spotlight: Bottomland Hardwood Forest” in Naturally Kentucky No. 74 (Summer/Fall 2015). https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/About_Us/news/Newsletters/NatKy74_SummerFall2015.pdf.

Kentucky Tourism

- n.d. “Kentucky Regions.” <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/>. Accessed October 2023.
- n.d. “Kentucky Trail Towns.” <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/things-to-do/outdoors/trail-towns>. Accessed September 2023.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

- n.d. “Scenic Byways.” <https://transportation.ky.gov/LocalPrograms/Pages/Scenic-Byways.aspx>. Accessed August 2023.

Kentucky Wildlands, The

2022 “Museum of the Mountain Dulcimer.”

<https://www.explorekywildlands.com/listing/museum-of-the-mountain-dulcimer/2784/>. Accessed August 2023.

KET Education

n.d. “Settlement Schools of Appalachia.”

<https://education.ket.org/resources/settlement-schools-appalachia/>. Accessed August 2023.

Kiffmeyer, Thomas J.

1988 “From Self-Help to Sedition: The Appalachian Volunteers in Eastern Kentucky, 1964–1970.” *The Journal of Southern History*, 64(1): 65-94. February.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2588073>. Accessed August 2023.

Kolstad, Charles D.

2017 “What is Killing the US Coal Industry?” *Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research*. March 2017. <https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/what-killing-us-coal-industry>.

Accessed August 2023.

Lang, Stephanie

n.d. “The Samuel May House.” *ExploreKYHistory*.

<https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/201>. Accessed August 2023.

Leggett, Christopher, Eric Horsch, Christopher Smith, and Robert Unsworth

2017 Estimating Recreational Visitation to Federally Managed Lands. Final Report. April 25, 2017. Prepared for Office of Policy Analysis, US Department of the Interior by Industrial Economics, Incorporated, Cambridge, MA.

Library of Congress

n.d. “Appalachian Music.” <https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200152683/>. Accessed August 2023.

Maimon, Alan

2021 *Twilight in Hazard: An Appalachian Reckoning*. Melville House.

Manala Research

2009 The Cultural and Heritage Traveler Executive Summary.

<https://www.hospitalitynet.org/file/152004204.pdf>.

Mannering, Megan

2023 “There’s Nothing like it: Elk tours continue to enhance eastern Kentucky tourism.” *LEX18*. August 24, 2023. <https://www.lex18.com/spotlight-series/theres-nothing-like-it-elk-tours-continue-to-enhance-eastern-kentucky-tourism>.

Accessed August 2023.

Martin, Tom, and Neil Kesterson

- 2022 “Warrior’s Path.” Interview. *Eastern Standard*. June 16, 2022. <https://esweku.org/track/3103756/june-16-2022-warriors-path>. Accessed August 2023.

McKinney, Gordon B.

- 1977 “Industrialization and Violence in Appalachia in the 1890’s.” *An Appalachian Symposium: Essays Written in Honor of Cratis D. Williams*. Appalachian State University (1977). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1xp3mkm.15>. Accessed October 2023.
- 2010 “Introduction: Appalachia, 1865–1910” in *Reconstructing Appalachia: The Civil War’s Aftermath*, ed. Andrew L. Slap. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky.

Middle Creek National Battlefield

- 2021 “Preservation.” <https://www.middlecreek.org/preservation/>. Accessed August 2023.

Miller, Paige Putnam

- 1989 “Wendover.” National Register of Historic Place Registration Form. Washington, DC: Department of Interior. https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NRHP/75000792_text

Moore, Molly

- 2013 “Traditions of Resistance: Lessons from the Struggle for Justice in Appalachia.” *Appalachian Voice*. October 9, 2013. <https://appvoices.org/2013/10/09/traditions-of-resistance-lessons-from-the-struggle-for-justice-in-appalachia-2/>. Accessed August 2023.

Mountain Association for Community Economic Development

- 2009 “The Economics of Coal in Kentucky: Current Impacts and Future Prospects.” June 25, 2009. https://archive.kftc.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/economics_of_coal_maced.pdf. Accessed August 2023.

National Park Service (NPS)

- n.d. “Battle Detail-Barbourville.” *The Civil War*. <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battles-detail.htm?battleCode=KY001>. Accessed July 2023.
- n.d. “A Guide to the Blue Heron Community.” <https://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/upload/blueheronguide.pdf>. Accessed August 2023.
- n.d. “National Natural Landmarks Directory.” *National Natural Landmarks*. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nnlandmarks/nation.htm>. Accessed August 2023.

- 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields. irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/640755. Accessed July 2023.
- 2010 Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. National Park Service Southeast Regional Office. 490.
- 2015 "Civil War at Cumberland Gap." *Cumberland Gap National Historical Park*. <https://www.nps.gov/cuga/civil-war-at-cumberland-gap.htm>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2019 "Blue Heron." *Big South Fort National River & Recreation Area*. <https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/historyculture/blueheron.htm>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 "Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument, Kentucky." <https://www.nps.gov/misp/index.htm>. Accessed August 2023.
- National Public Radio (NPR)
- 2019 "Kentucky Coal Miner on Why He Decided to Start a Protest Against Blackjewel." *All Things Considered*. August 8, 2019. <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/08/749500865/kentucky-coal-miner-on-why-he-decided-to-start-a-protest-against-blackjewel>. Accessed August 2023.
- National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- 2023 Red River, Kentucky. *National Wild and Scenic River System*. <https://www.rivers.gov/rivers/river/red>. Accessed June 2023.
- NatureServe Network
- 2021 The Map of Biodiversity Importance: Richness of Imperiled Species in the United States. Arlington, Virginia. https://landscape12.arcgis.com/arcgis/rest/services/USA_CONUS_imperiled_species_richness_All/ImageServer. Accessed September 2023.
- Newell, W. L.
- 2001 Physiography. In: US Geological Survey. *The Geology of Kentucky – A Text to Accompany the Geologic Map of Kentucky*. January 9, 2001. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/p1151h/physiography.html>. Accessed June 2023.
- Newton, Matthew
- 2014 "Down and Out in Appalachia." *Medium*. January 17, 2014. <https://medium.com/@newtonmatthew/down-and-out-in-appalachia-3e6869e7a085>. Accessed August 2023.

North Carolina State University

- n.d. "Rural, Isolated, and Independent." *Civil War Era NC*.
<https://cwnc.omeka.chass.ncsu.edu/exhibits/show/people-of-the-appalachian-moun/rural-isolated-people-of-appal/rural-isolated-and-independent>. Accessed August 2023.

O'Dell, Gary A.

- 1996 "Saltpeter Manufacturing and Marketing and Its Relation to the Gunpowder Industry in Kentucky During the Nineteenth Century."
https://www.rkci.org/library/odell_ky_saltpeter_1996.pdf. Accessed August 2023.

Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves

- 2022 Conserving Kentucky's Natural Heritage. Report submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly as directed by KRS 146 and 418 KAR relating to the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. 115.
- 2023 Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund 2023 Annual Report. Report submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly as directed by KRS 146 and 418 KAR relating to the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. 42.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- n.d. "Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award Winners."
<https://www.osmre.gov/programs/abandoned-mine-land-award-winners>. Accessed August 2023.

Otterbein, Keith F.

- 2000 "Five Feuds: An Analysis of Homicides in Eastern Kentucky in Late Nineteenth Century." *American Anthropologist* 102(20): 231-243. June.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/683675>. Accessed October 2023.

Outdoor Industry Association

- n.d. "Kentucky." *Outdoor Industry Association*. "Kentucky." *Outdoor Recreation Association*, "[Kentucky.](#)" [Outdoor Recreation Association, Kentucky - Outdoor Industry Association](#). Accessed October 2023.

Pearce, John Ed

- 1994 *Days of Darkness: The Feuds of Eastern Kentucky*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. https://uknowledge.uky.edu/upk_appalachian_studies/25. Accessed July 2023.

Peine, Emelie K.

- 2023 "Commentary: Hillbillies in Higher Ed-Confronting Anti-Rural Bias in Academia." *Daily Yonder*. August 22, 2023.
<https://dailyyonder.com/commentary-hillbillies-in-higher-ed-confronting-anti-rural-bias-in-academia/2023/08/22/>. Accessed August 2023.

Perry, L. Martin

- n.d. "Coal Company Towns in Eastern Kentucky, 1854–1941: A Historic Context." <http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/coaltowns/home.htm>. Accessed August 2023.

Phillips, Kenneth

- n.d. "The Native American Heritage Museum, Corbin, Kentucky." *RootsWeb*. https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kycarter/the_original_peoples/Corbin_museum/Corbin_museum.htm. Accessed August 2023.

Pine Mountain Settlement School

- n.d. "What We Do." <https://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/what-we-do>. Accessed August 2023.

Polsgrove, Robert M.

- 1988 "Sterns Administrative and Commercial District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Washington DC: US Department of Interior, National Park Service. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/e965a168-35d9-4fe3-836e-efce98201452/>. Accessed August 2023.

Potts, Monica

- 2018 "What Happens After the Mines Close?" *Sierra*. December 20, 2018. <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2019-1-january-february/feature/what-happens-after-mines-close-kentucky-coal>. Accessed August 2023.

Primm Research

- 2014 "The Economic Benefits of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. Prepared for Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. March 2014. <https://www.blueridgeheritage.com/wp-content/uploads/images/PDFs/Research/BRNHA%20Economic%20Impact%20and%20Benefits%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>. Accessed July 2023.

Pudup, Mary Beth

- 1990 "The Limits of Subsistence: Agriculture and Industry in Central Appalachia." *Agricultural History*, 64(1): 61–89. Winter. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3743183>. Accessed August 2023.

Puit, Glenn

- 2017 "Insight Preview: Burial Mounds of Central Park." *Daily Independent*. October 22, 2017. https://www.dailyindependent.com/news/insight-preview-burial-mounds-of-central-park/article_afd68ebc-b6a7-11e7-8e4d-bf7892d09468.html. Accessed August 2023.

Queen, Dale.

- 2021 “Central Park Adena Mounds.” *Ashland Community & Technical College*. November 22, 2021. <https://ashland.kctcs.edu/blog/posts/112221-central-park-adena-mounds.aspx>. Accessed August 2023.

Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition

- n.d. “AML Pilot Projects Map.” <https://reclaimingappalachia.org/aml-maps/>. Accessed August 2023.

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center

- 2023 “History.” <https://renfrovalley.com/history/>. Accessed August 2023.

Roberts, Leonard W.

- 1955 *South from Hell-fer-Sartin*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/232564895.pdf>. Accessed August 2023.

Rosenberg, John

- n.d. “Reflections on bringing Justice to the Citizens of Appalachia.” https://www.ardfky.org/sites/ardfky.org/files/Reflections%20on%20bringing%20ustice%20to%20the%20Citizens%20of%20Appalachia%20by%20John%20Rosenberg_0.pdf. Accessed August 2023.

Scalf, Henry P.

- 1966 *Kentucky's Last Frontier*. Johnson City, TN: The Overmountain Press. Reprinted 2000.

Searles, P. David

- 1995 *A College for Appalachia: Alice Lloyd on Caney Creek*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/232565167.pdf>. Accessed August 2023.

Seeger, Charles

- 1958 “The Appalachian Dulcimer.” *Journal of American Folklore*, 71(279): 40–51. January–March.

Sierra Club

- n.d. “Eastern Kentucky Future Groups.” <https://www.sierraclub.org/kentucky/eastern-kentucky-future-groups>. Accessed August 2023.

Sisk, Taylor

- 2019 “Eula Hall’s Mud Creek Clinic: Kentucky’s ‘People that Help People.’” *Daily Yonder*. May 26, 2019. <https://dailyyonder.com/eula-halls-mud-creek-clinic-kentuckys-people-that-help-people/2019/05/26/>. Accessed August 2023.

Slap, Andrew L.

- 2010 "A New Frontier: Historians, Appalachian History, and the Aftermath of the Civil War" in *Reconstructing Appalachia: The Civil War's Aftermath*, ed. Andrew L. Slap. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky.

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

- 1996 *Mountain Music of Kentucky*. Audio recordings.
<https://folkways.si.edu/mountain-music-of-kentucky/american-folk-old-time/album/smithsonian>.

Southeastern Kentucky Association of Native People, Inc.

- 2023 "Home." <http://www.skanp.org/>. Accessed August 2023.

Stern, Rebecca

- 2022 "In Kentucky, a Music School Focuses on Appalachian Music, and Inclusion." *Daily Yonder*. July 12, 2022. <https://dailyyonder.com/in-kentucky-a-music-school-focuses-on-appalachian-music-and-inclusion/2022/07/12/>. Accessed August 2023.

Talbott, Tim

- n.d. "Warrior's Path" *Kentucky History*.
<https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/602>. Accessed August 2023.

The Nature Conservancy

- 2019 "The Cumberland Forest Project." <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/kentucky/stories-in-kentucky/cumberland-forest/>. Accessed August 2023.

Tourism Economics

- 2023 "Economic Impacts of Visitors in Kentucky 2022." Prepared for Kentucky Department of Tourism. April 2023. Accessed July 2023.
https://www.kentuckytourism.com/media/docs/default-source/research/kentucky-tourism-economic-impact-2022---20220428.pdf?sfvrsn=55ccdedc_1

Tripp Umbach

- 2017 Economic Impact of National Heritage Areas: A case study of the National Coal Heritage Area.
https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/Final_National-Coal-Heritage-Area-Economic-Impact-Report.pdf. Accessed July 2023.

Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Co.

- n.d. "Hindman Dulcimer History." <https://troublesomecreekguitars.com/about-us/hindman-dulcimer-history/>. Accessed August 2023.

UK College of Medicine

- 2021 “Honoring Eula Hall’s Legacy as an Appalachian Activist and Healthcare Pioneer.” May 13, 2021. <https://medicine.uky.edu/news/honoring-eula-halls-legacy-appalachian-activist-2021-05-13t12-28-14/>. Accessed August 2023.

University of North Carolina

- n.d. “Collection Number: 05606 Eastern Kentucky Social Club Collection, 1948–2014.” *UNC Wilson Special Collections Library*. <https://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/05606/>. Accessed August 2023.

US Census Bureau

- 2020 US Department of Commerce. Washington, DC. https://services.arcgis.com/P3ePLMYs2RVChkIx/ArcGIS/rest/services/USA_Census_2020_DHC_Total_Population/FeatureServer. Accessed August 2023.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- 2019 2017 Census of Agriculture. Watersheds. Volume 2, Subject Series, Part 6 (AC17-S-6). 31.

US Energy Information Administration

- 2023 Kentucky State Energy Profile Estimates. Updated August 18, 2022. <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=KY>. Accessed August 2023.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- 2023 Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Resource List for Trust Resources under US Fish and Wildlife Jurisdiction, August 21, 2023. Accessed August 21, 2023.

US Forest Service (USFS)

- n.d. “Camp Wildcat Battlefield.” <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/dbnf/recarea/?recid=84079>. Accessed August 2023.
- n.d. “Fitchburg Furnace Interpretive Site.” <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/dbnf/recarea/?recid=64853>. Accessed August 2023.
- 1983 *Mountaineers and Rangers: A History of Federal Forest Management in the Southern Appalachians, 1900-1981*. Washington, DC: Department of Agriculture. <http://npshistory.com/publications/usfs/region/8/history/contents.htm>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2014 “History of Redbird Purchase Unit – Daniel Boone National Forest.” https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd507274.pdf. Accessed August 2023.

US Geological Survey (USGS)

- n.d. North American Bird Conservation Joint Ventures.
<https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/4fbbda49e4b0ee66f48f6703>. Accessed June 2023.

Vickers, Blake

- 2022 “EKU students help chronicle The Warrior’s Path.” *Richmond Register*. April 26, 2022. https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-students-help-chronicle-the-warriors-path/article_9b43f91c-3510-57d0-a834-9e6598c6335a.html. Accessed August 2023.

Watts, Cindy

- 2019 “Keith Whitley’s family remembers their father, husband on 30th anniversary of his death.” *Tennessean*. May 8, 2019.
<https://www.tennessean.com/story/entertainment/2019/05/08/keith-whitley-country-music-hall-of-fame-exhibit-lorrie-morgan/1141495001/>. Accessed August 2023.

Waymakers Collective

- n.d. “Waymakers Collective.” <https://www.waymakerscollective.org/>. Accessed August 2023.

Wilhelm, Gene.

- 1977 “Appalachian Isolation: Fact or Fiction?” *An Appalachian Symposium: Essays Written in Honor of Cratis D. Williams*. Appalachian State University (1977).
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1xp3mkm.10>. Accessed August 2023.

Wiken, Ed, Francisco Jiménez Nava, and Glenn Griffith

- 2011 North American Terrestrial Ecoregions—Level III. Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Montreal, Canada. April 2011.
<http://www.cec.org/files/documents/publications/10415-north-american-terrestrial-ecoregionslevel-iii-en.pdf>.

WMMT-FM 88.7

- 2022 “Passing the Pick & Bow.” <https://wmmt.org/projects/pick-and-bow>. Accessed August 2023.
- 2023 “About WMMT.” <https://wmmt.org/about>. Accessed August 2023.

Zipper, Carl E., Mary Beth Adams, and Jeff Skousen

- 2021 “The Appalachian Coalfield in Historical Context.”
https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2021/nrs_2021_zipper_001.pdf. Accessed August 2023.

This page intentionally blank.



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under US administration.



**Kentucky Wildlands
National Heritage Area Feasibility Study**

2023