
**FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM
FOR KENTUCKY**



**United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency**

June 2011

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Finding of No Significant Impact

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program for Kentucky

June 2011

Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency proposes to implement a new program authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) in Kentucky. The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides grants to State and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. The VPA-HIP is administered by the State or tribal government that receives the grant funds.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) proposes to increase the incentive payouts in the current Mourning Dove Access Program and to create two new public access programs: the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program. Kentucky is approximately 90 percent privately owned and the Mourning Dove Access Program, Kentucky's only public access program, though popular, has been historically limited by funding.

Preferred Alternative

With VPA-HIP grant funds and supplemental state and private funds, KDFWR would increase the per acre incentive payouts for the Mourning Dove Access Program for landowners willing to plant a dove friendly food crop and allow hunting access. KDFWR would also use VPA-HIP funds to create the CREP Hunter Access Program that would give payouts to landowners enrolled in the Green River CREP for allowing hunter access to their lands, and provide an incentive payment to those landowners that implement those mid-contract management activities recommended by KDFWR. The Landowner Fishing Access Program would offer incentive payments to landowners allowing stream bank or river fishing access, private boat ramp access, or private lake and pond fishing access.

Reasons for Finding of No Significant Impact

In consideration of the analysis documented in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations 1508.27, the preferred alternative would not constitute a major State or Federal action affecting the human and natural environment. Therefore, this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following:

1. Long-term beneficial impacts and short-term localized impacts would occur with the preferred alternative. Neither of these impacts would be considered significant.
2. The preferred alternative would not affect public health or safety.
3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area (cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, and ecologically critical areas) would be preserved with implementation of the preferred alternative.

Cover Sheet

Proposed Action: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Kentucky have agreed to implement a new Voluntary Public Access – Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). USDA is provided the statutory authority by the provisions of the Food Security Act of 2008, and the Regulations at 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1410. VPA-HIP provides grants to state and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. The VPA-HIP is administered by the state or tribal government that receives the grant funds.

Type of Document: Programmatic Environmental Assessment

Lead Agency: USDA, FSA

Sponsoring Agency: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Cooperating Agency: None

Comments: This Programmatic Environmental Assessment was prepared in accordance with USDA FSA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation procedures found in 7 CFR 799, as well as the NEPA of 1969, Public Law 91-190, 42 United States Code 4321-4347, 1 January 1970, as amended.

A Notice of Availability was released on June 17, 2011 announcing a 30-day comment period. A copy of the document can be found on the USDA FSA website: www.fsa.usda.gov. Comments will be accepted until July 18, 2011. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to: dhbanwart@tecinc.com

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency proposes to implement a new program authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) in Kentucky. The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides grants to state and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. The VPA-HIP is administered by the state or tribal government that receives the grant funds.

Proposed Action

With VPA-HIP grant funds and supplemental state and private funds, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) proposes to increase the incentive payouts in the current Mourning Dove Access Program and to create two new public access programs: the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program. The CREP Hunter Access Program would give payouts to landowners enrolled in the Green River CREP for allowing hunter access to their lands, and provide an incentive payment to those landowners that implement those mid-contract management activities recommended by KDFWR. The Landowner Fishing Access Program would offer incentive payments to landowners allowing stream bank or river fishing access, private boat ramp access, or private lake and pond fishing access.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to increase the total acres of private lands enrolled into public access programs. The need for the Proposed Action is to meet the increasing demand for public access to private lands for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Kentucky is approximately 90 percent privately owned, making a small fraction of land available for public use. Kentucky has had a successful history with its Mourning Dove Access Program and Landowner Incentive Program (this program was implemented with limited grant funding and was recently closed), both of which have had significant landowner interest.

Environmental Consequences

This Programmatic Environmental Assessment has been prepared to analyze the potential environmental consequences associated with implementing the Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative) or the No Action Alternative. Under the Proposed Action, KDFWR would utilize VPA-HIP funds to expand enrollment in the Mourning Dove Access Program and to implement the CREP Hunter Access Program and Landowner Fishing Access Program. VPA-HIP funds would be used to offer increased landowner payouts and perform habitat improvement projects where appropriate. Under the No Action Alternative, the Mourning Dove Access Program would continue as it is currently administered, but the two new public access programs would not be implemented. The potential environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action would be beneficial overall to the natural environment and increase hunting and fishing

recreational opportunities in the state. A summary of environmental consequences is provided in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1 Summary of Environmental Consequences

Resource	Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources (Vegetation, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, and Protected Species)	Any habitat improvement projects would have minor short-term adverse impacts to biological resources from the disturbance of soils and habitats. However, there would be long-term beneficial impacts from creating higher quality habitat for wildlife. KDFWR monitors game populations and controls hunting and fishing pressure through its permit process. This process would continue, therefore, increasing opportunities for hunting and fishing throughout the state would not impact fish or game populations.	Habitat improvement activities would still occur under other grants or state programs, but the funding sources would be limited. The Mourning Dove Access Program would continue as it is currently administered, but enrollment would not be expanded. The beneficial impacts to wildlife habitat from the additional habitat improvement projects under the Proposed Action would not be realized.
Recreation	Recreational hunting and fishing opportunities would increase throughout the state with the expansion of the Mourning Dove Access program and the creation of two new programs. In those areas where habitat improvement activities occur, some temporary limitation to public entry may be necessary until the project is firmly established. However, long term beneficial impacts to recreation are expected from the increased opportunities and the improved habitat quality for wildlife.	The Mourning Dove Access Program would continue to be administered as it is currently, but with limited funding for expansion. The beneficial impacts from increasing recreational hunting and fishing opportunities would not be realized.
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	Direct beneficial impacts to the local economy would come from payouts to landowners for allowing access and the goods and services purchased for habitat improvement projects. Indirect beneficial impacts could also occur from purchases (lodging, meals, and goods) from traveling sportsmen. There would be no disproportionate impacts to minority or low income populations; therefore, there are no environmental justice concerns.	Increased enrollment in public access programs would not occur and there would be no VPA-HIP grant funding. The beneficial impacts from the spending of VPA-HIP funds for increased landowner payouts and habitat improvements would not be realized. No Environmental Justice impacts would occur.
Water Resources (Surface Water and Wetlands)	Short-term, localized impacts to water quality could occur from habitat improvement projects that disturb soil near water resources. However, long-term, beneficial impacts to water quality would be realized from restoring vegetation cover along or near stream banks which would reduce erosion potential.	Habitat improvement activities would still occur under other grants or state programs, but the funding sources would be limited. Long-term benefits to water resources from increased funding for habitat improvement would not be realized.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	ES-1
CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1 BACKGROUND	1-1
1.2 THE PROPOSED ACTION	1-3
1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION	1-3
1.4 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.....	1-3
1.5 ORGANIZATION OF EA.....	1-3
CHAPTER 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES.....	2-1
2.1 PROPOSED ACTION	2-1
2.1.1 Mourning Dove Access Program	2-1
2.1.2 CREP Hunter Access Program.....	2-2
2.1.3 Landowner Fishing Access Program.....	2-3
2.2 ALTERNATIVES.....	2-4
2.3 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	2-5
2.4 RESOURCES ELIMINATED FROM ANALYSIS	2-5
CHAPTER 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	3-1
3.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	3-1
3.1.1 Affected Environment	3-2
3.1.1.1 Vegetation	3-2
3.1.1.2 Terrestrial Wildlife	3-3
3.1.1.3 Aquatic Wildlife	3-3
3.1.1.4 Protected Species.....	3-3
3.1.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-3
3.1.2.1 Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative).....	3-3
3.1.2.2 No Action Alternative	3-5
3.2 RECREATION	3-5
3.2.1 Affected Environment	3-5
3.2.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-5
3.2.2.1 Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative).....	3-5
3.2.2.2 No Action Alternative	3-6

3.3	SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	3-6
3.4	WATER RESOURCES.....	3-9
3.4.1	Affected Environment	3-9
3.4.1.1	Surface Waters	3-9
3.4.1.2	Wetlands.....	3-10
3.4.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-10
3.4.2.1	Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative).....	3-10
3.4.2.2	No Action Alternative	3-10
CHAPTER 4.0	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES	4-1
4.1	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.....	4-1
4.2	IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES.....	4-1
CHAPTER 5.0	MITIGATION MEASURES.....	5-1
CHAPTER 6.0	PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONTACTED	6-1
CHAPTER 7.0	REFERENCES.....	7-1
CHAPTER 8.0	LIST OF PREPARERS.....	8-1
APPENDIX A – LANDOWNER FISHING ACCESS PROGRAM EVALUATION FORMS		A-1
APPENDIX B – AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE.....		B-1

List of Tables

Table 2-1. Preferred Mid-Contract Management Practices and Potential Incentive Payments for CREP Hunter Access Program	2-3
---	------------

List of Figures

Figure 1-1. Public Hunting and Fishing Access Points in Kentucky	1-2
---	------------

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	PEA	Programmatic Environmental
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program		Assessment
EA	Environmental Assessment	U.S.	United States
EO	Executive Order	USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
FSA	Farm Service Agency	USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
KDFWR	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
LIP	Landowner Incentive Program	USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
		USGS	U.S. Geologic Survey
		VPA-HIP	Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

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CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) proposes to implement a new program authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) in Kentucky. The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides grants to state and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. The VPA-HIP is administered by the state or tribal government that receives the grant funds.

The VPA-HIP is a competitive grants program that is only available for state and tribal governments. The grant funding may be used to expand existing public access programs or create new public access programs, or provide incentives to improve wildlife habitat on enrolled lands. Program objectives are to:

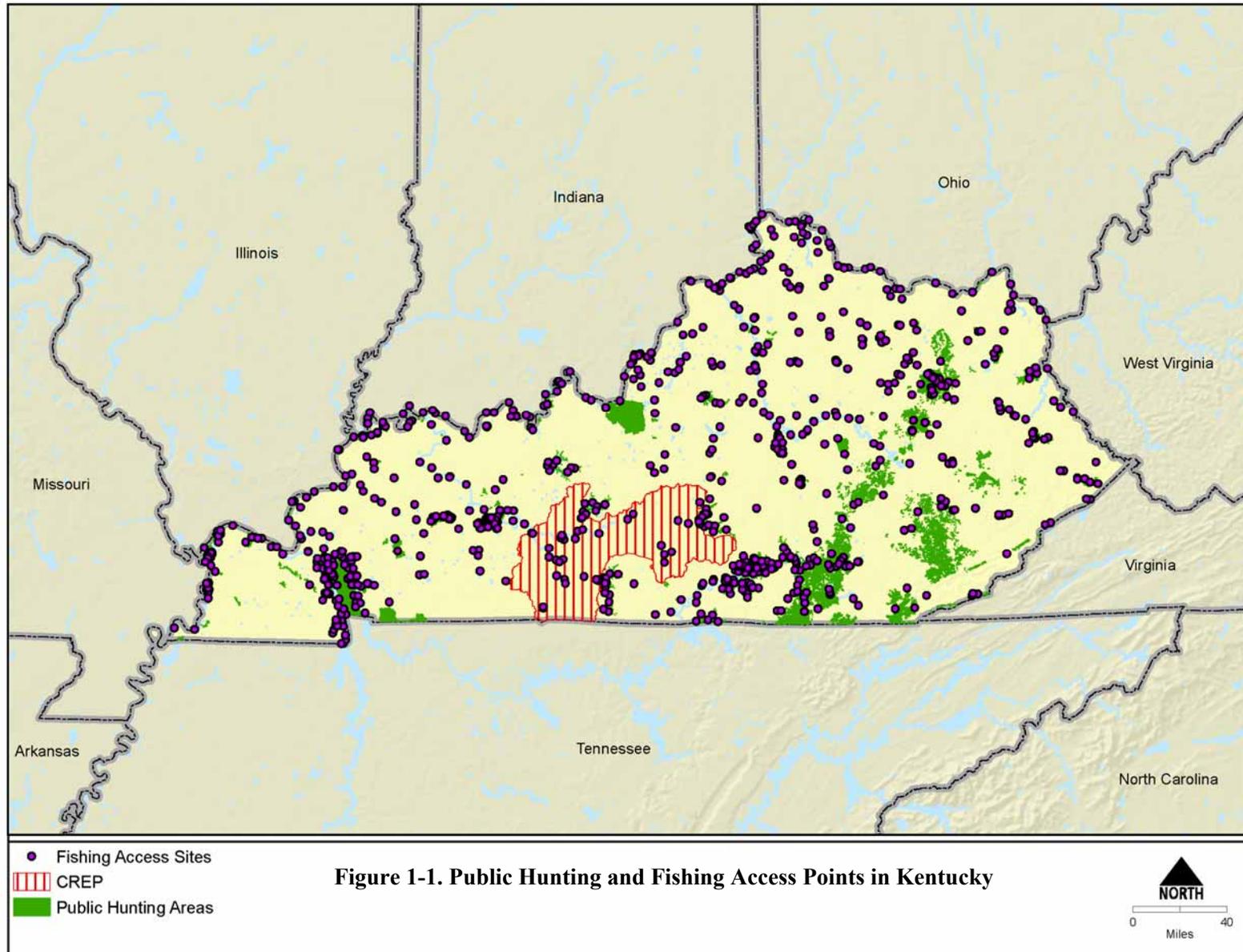
- Maximize participation by landowners;
- Ensure that land enrolled in the program has appropriate wildlife habitat;
- Provide incentives to improve wildlife habitat on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands, if available;
- Supplement funding and services from other Federal, state, or tribal government or private resources; and
- Inform the public about the location of public access land.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), proposes to use VPA-HIP grant funds to expand its existing public access program and create two new access programs to provide the public with more opportunities to hunt and fish, and to improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

1.1 BACKGROUND

It is estimated that over 90 percent of Kentucky is under private ownership. This fact demonstrates that in order to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and fishing resources in Kentucky, private landowners must be engaged and provided technical assistance to manage their lands with maintaining high quality habitat as a goal. Figure 1-1 shows the public hunting areas in Kentucky as well as public and private fishing access points and the Green River CREP, which would be targeted under the Proposed Action.

Recently, KDFWR ended a successful Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) that provided for wildlife habitat improvement on private lands. This program was funded through three competitive grants offered through the Department of the Interior. Though this program did not offer any public access for hunting or fishing, it demonstrated public interest in managing private land for the purpose of providing higher quality habitat for wildlife resources.



KDFWR currently has one public access program: the Mourning Dove Access Program. This is a voluntary program that pays landowners to create dove food plots in exchange for allowing public access for hunting. This program has been successful in the past and has typically been limited by funding availability. The program allows up to 15 acres of land to be planted in a crop suitable for mourning dove forage. KDFWR currently pays out a maximum of \$200 per acre, for up to 15 acres. The landowner must allow hunting on 20 acres (15 planted acres, plus a 5 acre buffer around the planted plot). KDFWR also provides a \$25 per acre access payment for the total 20 acres. This program therefore could provide a qualified landowner a maximum payout of \$3,500 for access to a 20-acre field. Currently, hunter demand for utilizing these plots is increasing while the number of landowners participating is decreasing. Landowner participation has decreased due to the limited incentive payments that KDFWR can provide.

1.2 THE PROPOSED ACTION

KDFWR proposes to use Federal VPA-HIP funds to increase the incentive payouts in the current Mourning Dove Access Program and to create two new public access programs: the CREP Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to increase the total acres of private lands enrolled in public access programs. The need for the Proposed Action is to meet the increasing demand for public access to private lands for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Kentucky is approximately 90 percent privately owned, making a small fraction of land available for public use. Kentucky has had a successful history with its Mourning Dove Access Program and the LIP, both of which have had significant landowner interest.

1.4 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

This Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S. Code 4321 et seq.); implementing regulations adopted by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508); and FSA implementing regulations, Environmental Quality and Related Environmental Concerns – Compliance with NEPA (7 CFR 799). The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environment through well-informed Federal decisions. A variety of laws, regulations, and Executive Orders (EOs) apply to actions undertaken by Federal agencies and form the basis of the analysis presented in this PEA.

1.5 ORGANIZATION OF EA

This PEA assesses the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative on potentially affected environmental and economic resources.

- Chapter 1.0 provides background information relevant to the Proposed Action, and discusses its purpose and need.
- Chapter 2.0 describes the Proposed Action and alternatives.

- Chapter 3.0 describes the baseline conditions (i.e., the conditions against which potential impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives are measured) for each of the potentially affected resources and the potential environmental impacts to those resources.
- Chapter 4.0 describes potential cumulative impacts and irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments.
- Chapter 5.0 discusses mitigation measures utilized to reduce or eliminate impacts to protected resources.
- Chapter 6.0 contains a list of the persons and agencies contacted during the preparation of this document.
- Chapter 7.0 contains references.
- Chapter 8.0 lists the preparers of this document.
- Appendix A provides Evaluation Forms for the Landowner Fishing Access Program
- Appendix B provides agency correspondence.

CHAPTER 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

KDFWR proposes to use \$1,704,119 in VPA-HIP grant funds and supplemental funds, to expand participation in public access programs that allow access to private lands for hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related recreational opportunities. Specific program objectives include:

- Provide new hunting opportunities for deer, dove, turkey, and small game;
- Provide new fishing opportunities through new access to streams, lakes, ponds, and boat ramps;
- Ensure that all lands enrolled in programs have appropriate fish and wildlife habitat as determined by a KDFWR biologist;
- Enroll a minimum of 10,000 acres of the Green River CREP for public access for fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing;
- Improve stream bank fishing access along key priority areas including Elkhorn Creek, Lake Cumberland Tailwater, and the Green River system;
- Enroll a minimum of 15 stream bank fishing access sites, 10 boat ramps, and 10 lakes/ponds;
- Publicize programs and locations of enrolled lands through hunting guides, KDFWR's website, brochures, and press releases; and
- Hire a Program Coordinator and two assistants to administer public access programs.

To accomplish these objectives, KDFWR proposes to expand the Mourning Dove Access Program and to create two new programs: the CREP Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program. The individual programs are described in Sections 2.1.1 through 2.1.3.

2.1.1 Mourning Dove Access Program

With VPA-HIP funds, KDFWR proposes to expand participation in the existing Mourning Dove Access Program. KDFWR would provide increased incentive payments to eligible landowners who plant their field in spring to sunflowers, millet, or other dove friendly forage and then allow public access for hunting. Payouts would be based on the number of acres enrolled, the type of crop planted, and the number of days the landowner would be willing to make the field available for public dove hunting. Enrolled landowners would be paid up to \$300 per acre for planting a maximum of 30 acres. As with the previous administration of the program, KDFWR would require a buffer area around the planted crop that could also be accessed for public hunting. The buffer would be expanded to 10 acres around the planted field. KDFWR would also provide a \$25 per acre public access payout for the entire planted field and buffer area to the enrolled landowner (for a maximum of 40 acres: 30 acres planted, 10-acre buffer). This would result in a maximum payout of up to \$10,000 for a 40-acre field. Currently, the program allows a maximum payout of \$3,500 for a 20 acre field (15 acres planted, 5 acre buffer).

Prior to enrollment, a KDFWR biologist would visit the interested landowner and discuss specifics of the program and provide suggestions for the field to be planted. Payouts for enrollment and planting would be based on general surrounding habitat quality and the type of crop the landowner would plant for dove forage.

2.1.2 CREP Hunter Access Program

Kentucky's Green River CREP is comprised of over 100,000 acres of high quality habitat and is one of Kentucky's great conservation success stories. It is the largest targeted private landowner habitat improvement effort ever completed in Kentucky. The proposed CREP Hunter Access Program would add a public access component to the CREP lands for hunting and wildlife viewing.

Through the CREP Hunter Access Program, KDFWR proposes to use VPA-HIP funds to offer competitive lease payouts for public access to CREP lands. This program would target lands enrolled in CREP; however, if suitable lands of high value for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing were available, enrollment of non-CREP lands would be at KDFWR's discretion. Proposed hunter access rates under this program would be \$2.50 per acre of enrolled land and would specifically apply to access for hunting deer, turkey, and small game and for wildlife viewing. Landowners could also get a bonus of \$2.00 per acre for bundling access for more than one activity (i.e., deer and turkey access, turkey and wildlife viewing, etc.). For example, a landowner could receive \$7.00 per acre if access is allowed for deer and turkey hunting.

As part of a landowner's CREP contract, mid-contract management activities are required to ensure that the land continues to provide appropriate wildlife cover throughout the life of the CREP contract (14 to 15 years). In the Green River CREP, there are 15 approved conservation practices that landowners can use for mid-contract management. However, landowners typically choose the least expensive option, due to out-of-pocket costs for the activity. Currently, Kentucky provides a 50 percent cost share to landowners to help offset the cost of mid-contract management activities. Under the proposed CREP Hunter Access Program, KDFWR would offer an additional per acre incentive payment to those landowners willing to undertake one of the four mid-contract management activities identified by KDFWR as being more habitat beneficial (Table 2-1). These activities are typically the more expensive; however, they also tend to be the most habitat beneficial options. A KDFWR biologist would visit eligible land and make a recommendation as to which of the mid-contract management practices would be most beneficial. If the landowner chooses the option suggested by the KDFWR biologist, the landowner would be eligible to receive the per acre mid-contract management incentive payment shown in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Preferred Mid-Contract Management Practices and Potential Incentive Payments for CREP Hunter Access Program

Practice	Description	Incentive Payment (per acre)
Prescribed Burning	Use of prescribed fire to maintain a more natural fire regime creating high quality natural habitat	\$25
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (A) Strip Disking	Management of habitat through the use of strip disking to return area to earlier successional stage and disrupt woody vegetation establishment	\$25
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (B) Selective Chemical Application (After Establishment)	Management of habitat through use of approved chemical herbicides to maintain natural vegetative communities.	\$13
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (C) 1 pound of 4 Forb Mixture	Seeding of lands with natural forb mixture to help maintain natural vegetative communities.	\$42

2.1.3 Landowner Fishing Access Program

The Landowner Fishing Access Program would be comprised of three key elements: stream bank fishing access, boat ramp access, and pond/lake access. Areas enrolled in the program would receive annual payouts for allowing public access. The sites would be identified by signage maintained by KDFWR and would be included in an annual guide to the Landowner Fishing Access Program which would provide maps and descriptions of the enrolled sites. The individual components of this program are explained in further detail below.

Stream Bank Fishing Access. Kentucky anglers have long identified the need for purchasing or leasing stream bank access along high quality streams and rivers as a priority for KDFWR. Private landowners that possess such access points along high quality streams and rivers would be contacted by KDFWR and informed about the new Landowner Fishing Access Program. If a landowner expresses interest in enrolling in the program, KDFWR staff would perform a site visit to evaluate the quality of the fishery at the site, unless sampling data already exists for the area. A systematic numerical evaluation would be done for each potential site with a total of thirteen scoring criteria. Criteria would evaluate the quality of the existing fishery, the number of anglers the site can accommodate, length of stream frontage included, availability of parking, proximity of the parking to the stream, presence of existing hazards at the site, length of time the access may be open to the public, and the number of complex restrictions required by the landowner. An example of the Stream Evaluation form is included in Appendix A.

Stream access sites that receive the highest possible ranking may receive compensation for access of \$2,000 to \$2,500. Stream sites that fall into the second tier could receive payouts of \$1,500 to \$1,999. Third and fourth tier access sites would receive less compensation and those that fall into the lowest tier classification would receive compensation of \$499 or less. Payouts for access would be made on an annual basis with higher compensation rates given to those landowners interested in enrolling in multi-year contracts. Multi-year contracts would be paid on an annual basis and not in a lump sum.

Boat Ramp Access Program. KDFWR has identified over 800 boating access facilities, both public and private, throughout the Commonwealth. Boating access at multi-purpose reservoirs and lakes is considered well developed, while access along streams and rivers is less available. Private landowners that possess suitable boat ramps would be targeted for enrollment in the program. Site visits by KDFWR staff would determine the quality of the existing boat ramp as well as the quality of the fishery to which it allows access. Like the Stream Bank Access Program, the boat ramps for consideration would undergo a systematic numerical evaluation based on thirteen criteria. Criteria include whether the boat ramp is presently easily accessible from major roadways, current condition of the boat ramp, types of vessels the ramp would accommodate, would launching require a 4X4 vehicle, availability of parking, and number of months the ramp would be usable. An example of the Boat Ramp Evaluation form is included in Appendix A.

Sites that receive the highest scores may receive compensation of \$1,250 to \$1,500. Boat ramps that fall into the second tier could receive compensation of \$1,000 to \$1,249. Additional compensation values may be added on a site by site basis, based on the needs or quality of the individual site. Payouts for boat ramp access would be made on an annual basis with higher compensation rates given to those landowners interested in enrolling in multi-year contracts. Multi-year contracts would be paid on an annual basis and not in a lump sum.

Pond/Lake Access Program. There are an estimated 150,000 farm ponds/small lakes throughout Kentucky that could provide a sizable increase in opportunities for recreational fishing. Many farm ponds/small lakes provide excellent fisheries for black bass, catfish, and panfish. These resources are also advantageous due to the fact that often these ponds are located short distances from urbanized areas. KDFWR staff would make a site visit to interested landowners to evaluate the pond/lake. As with the other two aspects of the Landowner Fishing Access Program, the pond/lake would be systematically evaluated using eleven scoring criteria. Those ponds/lakes that offer higher quality experiences to the public would receive higher scores. Criteria would include pond/lake size, quality of the fishery, accessibility from major roadways, presence of adequate parking, and any landowner restrictions. An example of the Pond/Lake Evaluation form is included in Appendix A.

Sites receiving the highest scores would receive compensation of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Additional compensation values may be added on a site by site basis, based on the needs or quality of the individual site. Payouts for pond/lake access would be made on an annual basis with higher compensation rates given to those landowners interested in enrolling in multi-year contracts. Multi-year contracts would be paid on an annual basis and not in a lump sum.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES

CEQ regulations (40 CFR §1502.14) require the lead agency to identify all reasonable alternatives for implementing a Proposed Action. The Federal Register notice announcing the rule for VPA-HIP (Vol. 75(130), page 39135) explicitly states the purpose of VPA-HIP is to provide grants to state and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to

voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. Each VPA-HIP application received by USDA FSA underwent a selection screening process to identify those proposals that met the program objectives (listed in Introduction Section 1.0).

KDFWR considered using VPA-HIP funds for habitat improvement activities for all existing and proposed public access programs. However, it was determined that a more efficient use of the funds was to increase incentive payouts for participation, thereby increasing enrollment and public access. Use of the VPA-HIP funds for off-setting costs of required mid-contract management activities would also be complimentary to the conservation goals of the Green River CREP. The Proposed Action allows for the most benefit for least cost and would allow KDFWR to meet the objectives of VPA-HIP.

2.3 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the VPA-HIP would not be implemented in Kentucky. The Mourning Dove Access Program would continue to be administered as it is currently, and would remain underfunded. The CREP Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program would not be implemented without VPA-HIP funding. As such, any increased public access opportunities for hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing on private lands would not be realized.

2.4 RESOURCES ELIMINATED FROM ANALYSIS

CEQ regulations (40 CFR §1501.7) state that the lead agency shall identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not important or which have been covered by prior environmental review, narrowing the discussion of these issues in the document to a brief presentation of why they would not have a dramatic effect on the human or natural environment.

The Proposed Action consists primarily of administrative type changes (i.e., increasing landowner payouts or adding monetary incentives for enrollment). The physical impacts to the environment associated with mid-contract management or habitat improvement activities under the proposed CREP Hunter Access Program are addressed in Section 3.0. Thus, from a programmatic level, the Proposed Action would have little to no impact on the following resource areas:

Air Quality. The Proposed Action would have little impact to air quality in Kentucky. Expanding participation in any of the public access programs and increasing landowner payouts would have no impact on air quality. Prescribed burning as proposed under the CREP Hunter Access Program could have short-term, temporary impacts to local air quality. Kentucky in general has good air quality, only Bullitt and Jefferson Counties in the Louisville area are considered in *non-attainment* for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (USEPA 2011). All lands within the Green River CREP are well outside the Louisville area and prescribed burning would not impact the attainment status or local air quality within the CREP region. During prescribed burning, efforts would be made to manage smoke and provide for fire safety of the general public and the surrounding environment.

Noise. The Proposed Action would not create any new permanent sources of noise to the environment. Expanding public access to new lands may introduce gunfire noise on lands where public hunting may not occur. This noise would be intermittent and occur during daylight hours during specified hunting seasons. In addition, the requisite size of land needed for safe hunting would reduce the potential for gunfire noise to be heard outside the property. Habitat improvement activities could require the use of heavy equipment. These activities would be localized, temporary in nature, only occur during typical working daylight hours, and are not likely to exceed typical noise levels experienced on active agricultural land.

Human Health and Safety. No components of the Proposed Action would directly impact human health or safety. The goal of the Proposed Action is to increase public access to privately-held land that supports an abundance of wildlife, thereby allowing hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. While hunting does pose a slight safety risk, this activity would occur on private land with controlled access. Kentucky hunting regulations require hunters to receive the appropriate education and meet minimum age requirements before a permit can be issued. All habitat improvement requiring the use of heavy machinery would be done in accordance with existing safety guidelines.

Land Use. The Proposed Action would not result in any changes to land use designations. The Proposed Action would occur on private lands on a voluntary basis and would not require the alteration of land use.

Transportation. No aspect of the Proposed Action entails any alteration of the current transportation system in Kentucky. Increasing acreage available for enrollment in public access programs could cause an increase in the number of vehicles traveling to a newly enrolled area. However, it is highly unlikely this would be an impact to the transportation system.

Cultural Resources. The Proposed Action would not directly or indirectly impact any cultural resources, either architectural or archaeological. Areas that could be impacted under the proposed action are generally already under cultivation, had been under cultivation, or were in some way previously disturbed for farming or other similar purposes. VPA-HIP funding stipulates that no structures may be impacted using the funding, this includes demolition of existing structures or construction of new structures. As such, it is highly unlikely that any cultural or traditional resources would be impacted under the Proposed Action.

Coastal Zones. There are no coastal zones in Kentucky, as it is a land-locked state. However, lakes and reservoirs do exist. Proposed habitat improvement projects would ultimately benefit these areas. Potential water resources impacts are addressed in Section 3.4.

Other Formally Classified Lands. The Proposed Action can only be implemented on privately owned lands. The only formal classification applicable on private land would be Prime and Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The Proposed Action would not include removing these lands from agricultural production. Therefore, there would be no impacts to any other formally classified lands.

CHAPTER 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter provides a description of the existing environmental conditions that have the potential to be affected from implementation of the Proposed Action and the potential environmental impacts that may occur to those resources. Resource areas potentially impacted by the Proposed Action and covered in this PEA include:

- Biological Resources (Vegetation, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, and Protected Species)
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Water Resources (Surface Water and Wetlands)

As described in Chapter 2, this PEA describes the potential impacts from implementing VPA-HIP funds in Kentucky on a programmatic level. Prior to any landowner enrollment, KDFWR staff would conduct a site visit to determine habitat quality and land eligibility for public access programs. Site-specific analysis for any proposed habitat improvement projects would also be carried out by KDFWR staff. The site-specific analysis in combination with the programmatic level analysis provided in this PEA serves as the full NEPA documentation. Projects determined to have potential significant impacts would be abandoned or a separate Environmental Assessment (EA) would be prepared.

Environmental consequences to each resource area are described for the Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative) and the No Action Alternative:

- **Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative):** utilize VPA-HIP funds to expand and enhance the existing public access program, create two new public access programs, and improve habitat through mid-contract management activities or other habitat improvement actions on eligible lands.
- **No Action Alternative:** continuation of existing public access program as it is currently administered. No expansion or additional financial incentives for enrollment would occur.

3.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Biological resources are any living features of the natural environment that add to the intrinsic value of the local area. In this PEA, biological resources include vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, aquatic wildlife, and protected species. Biological resources are included in this PEA because habitat improvement projects have the potential to temporarily disturb the natural environment during implementation but would also result in long-term positive improvements to the natural environment. Also, expanding the public access programs and increasing hunting and fishing opportunities may increase the potential for impacting game populations.

3.1.1 Affected Environment

The Proposed Action covers the entirety of Kentucky. A very brief overview of the vegetation within Kentucky is presented in Section 3.1.1.1, terrestrial wildlife that could potentially be affected by hunting is described in Section 3.1.1.2, aquatic wildlife that could potentially be affected by fishing is described in Section 3.1.1.3, and protected species that could potentially be impacted are described in Section 3.1.1.4.

3.1.1.1 Vegetation

Kentucky contains seven ecological regions (ecoregions). Ecoregions are divided based on the dominant vegetation found within the area. The seven ecoregions of Kentucky are Southwestern Appalachians, Central Appalachians, Western Allegheny Plateau, Interior Plateau, Interior River Valleys and Hills, Mississippi Alluvial Plain, and Mississippi Valley Loess Plain. The common vegetation of each ecoregion is described below.

The Southwestern Appalachians ecoregion occurs in a small portion of southeastern Kentucky. This ecoregion contains a mix of forest and woodland. Some cropland and pastures are also present. The forest and woodland habitats in this ecoregion are generally mixed mesophytic forests or upland forests composed of mixed oaks and shortleaf pines (USEPA 2010).

The Central Appalachians ecoregion is located in the far southeast and eastern parts of Kentucky. The ecoregion is dominated by forest cover. Soil infertility in this ecoregion has limited agricultural production. Forests in the ecoregion are generally mixed mesophytic forests, but there are also areas composed of Appalachian oaks and northern hardwoods (USEPA 2010).

The Western Allegheny Plateau ecoregion occurs in the northeastern portion of Kentucky. This ecoregion contains a mix of forest and agricultural lands. There are extensive mixed mesophytic forests and mixed oak forests in this ecoregion. Some portions of the ecoregion have been converted to pasture and cropland (USEPA 2010).

The Interior Plateau ecoregion is the dominant ecoregion in Kentucky, and occurs throughout most of central and southern Kentucky. The ecoregion is dominated by oak-hickory forest, but there are also some areas of bluestem prairie and cedar glades present (USEPA 2010).

The Interior River Valleys and Hills ecoregion occurs in portions of central and northwest Kentucky. This ecoregion contains a mix of forest and agricultural lands. Common forest types in the ecoregion include bottomland deciduous forest, swamp forest, mixed oak forest, and oak-hickory forest. A mixture of cropland and pasture is also present (USEPA 2010).

The Mississippi Alluvial Plain ecoregion covers the smallest portion of land and is only found in the far southwest corner of Kentucky. The ecoregion is mostly covered with agricultural land, but natural habitat in the area was dominated by bottomland deciduous forest (USEPA 2010).

The Mississippi Valley Loess Plains ecoregion is located in western Kentucky. This ecoregion is dominated by agricultural land. Natural habitat in the area includes upland forests covered in oak,

hickory, loblolly pine, and shortleaf pine. There are also mixed and southern mesophytic forests found within this ecoregion (USEPA 2010).

3.1.1.2 Terrestrial Wildlife

Kentucky contains an abundance of wildlife found throughout the various habitats in the state. Game species found in Kentucky include deer, turkey, bear, and elk. Small game and furbearer species that occur in Kentucky include grouse, quail, rabbit, squirrel, coyote, mink, muskrat, weasel, striped skunk, opossum, red fox, gray fox, raccoon, wild hog, groundhog, bobcat, bullfrog, beaver, and otter (KDFWR 2010a). Migratory birds that can be hunted in Kentucky include dove, snipe, woodcock, crow, moorhens, rails, and gallinules. Waterfowl species that can be hunted include ducks, teal, coots, geese, and mergansers (KDFWR 2010b).

3.1.1.3 Aquatic Wildlife

The waters of Kentucky contain a wide variety of fish species that can be caught as sport fish. Sport fish species that can be caught in Kentucky include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, coosa bass, rock bass, spotted bass, redear sunfish, walleye, sauger, muskellunge, chain pickerel, northern pike, white bass, hybrid striped bass, striped bass, yellow bass, black and white crappie, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, channel catfish, blue catfish, and channel catfish (KDFWR 2011).

3.1.1.4 Protected Species

Kentucky contains numerous species that are protected by federal or state Endangered Species Acts. The KDFWR website lists all threatened and endangered species that have been documented throughout the state. The only game species that are protected in Kentucky are migratory birds. The hunting of these species is strictly controlled through licensing and bag limits, and is regulated by KDFWR (KDFWR 2010b). Kentucky also contains multiple protected fish species that are illegal to possess. Protected fish species include blackside dace, palezone shiner, relict darter, duskytail darter, and pallid sturgeon (KDFWR 2011b).

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

Impacts to biological resources would be considered significant if activities resulted in reducing the wildlife or fisheries populations to a level of concern, removing land with unique vegetation characteristics, or incidental take of a protected species or its habitat.

3.1.2.1 Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action, additional habitat improvement projects similar to those currently done by KDFWR would occur on privately-held farms, ranches, and forest land throughout Kentucky under the VPA-HIP. These projects would be consistent with overall strategies to conserve habitat and wildlife important to Kentucky. In general, the activities associated with installing these projects would result in minor, short-term impacts, which include disturbance to local vegetation and wildlife. However, the goal

of these projects is long-term habitat improvement and sustainability of wildlife. Programmatic-level impacts to vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, and protected species are described below.

Vegetation and Terrestrial Wildlife

Under the Proposed Action, it is expected that implementation of the habitat improvement projects would increase habitat value by controlling less favorable vegetation species in preference for native species that provide greater habitat value. In general, habitat improvement would remove invasive or nuisance species to allow for preferred native species to dominate the habitat. Removal of nuisance species can be done by hand, mechanically, or with prescribed burning depending on the habitat type, size of project area, and local conditions. In some cases, preferred vegetation species may be seeded or planted to increase the habitat value, while in other cases the habitat would be allowed to naturally regenerate after removal of invasive species. Installation of the restoration activity could result in short-term, minor impacts to vegetation and disturbance to local terrestrial wildlife. However, once the restoration activity is completed, there would be long-term improvement in habitat value and subsequent conservation of important wildlife.

KDFWR goes to great lengths to ensure hunting a game species does not negatively affect the status of the species. All game species are managed for the long-term viability of the populations. Expanding participation in the current programs and increasing hunting opportunities would not result in adverse impacts to game species' populations given the existing KDFWR control through the permit process.

Aquatic Wildlife

Under the Proposed Action, it is expected that implementation of the habitat improvement projects could occur near riparian habitats and result in long-term decreases in erosion. Improving the water quality would have subsequent beneficial impacts to aquatic wildlife. Activities associated with implementing the habitat improvement measure could cause a minor, localized, short-term impact by increasing sediment loads in runoff. Over the long-term, stabilizing the stream banks and other nearby areas would decrease erosion and sedimentation potential during storm events. In addition, approved erosion and sediment control measures would be utilized during installation of habitat improvement projects to minimize or eliminate potential impacts to water quality. Fish populations are monitored and controlled by permits and size limits on sport fish by KDFWR. Therefore, expanding participation in the access programs and increasing fishing opportunities would not result in adverse impacts to fish populations.

Protected Species

Under the Proposed Action, it is expected that implementation of the habitat improvement projects would increase habitat value by controlling less favorable species in preference for native species that provide greater habitat value. This would result in long-term positive impacts to the habitat and associated wildlife. Installation of the habitat improvements could result in short-term, minor impacts to local terrestrial wildlife. However, once installed there would be long-term improvement in habitat value and subsequent conservation of protected species.

3.1.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Mourning Dove Access Program would continue to be administered as it is currently, and the CREP Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program would not be implemented. While habitat improvement projects and restoration activities would still occur under other grants or programs, the benefit from additional improvement projects throughout Kentucky utilizing the VPA-HIP funding would not be realized.

3.2 RECREATION

Recreation includes those outdoor activities that take place away from the residence of the participant. Kentucky offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities to its residents. Recreational activities that are common in Kentucky include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping, golfing, boating, hiking, biking, picnicking, and horseback riding. For this PEA, recreation focuses on hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities available to the public in the state of Kentucky.

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Hunting is regulated by KDFWR and a valid hunting permit is required to hunt within Kentucky. Separate hunting permits are required for each type of game and for certain individual species, and the permits are valid for the specific hunting season within the year they are purchased. Hunting permits that can be purchased in Kentucky include small game permits and furbearer permits. Species that require a separate hunting permit in Kentucky include deer, bear, elk, and turkey. Migratory bird hunting in Kentucky requires a valid hunting permit, along with the purchase of a migratory bird permit. Waterfowl hunting requires a valid hunting permit, a waterfowl permit, and a Federal Duck Stamp. Permits can be obtained online, through a KDFWR office, or at local retail stores (KDFWR 2010a).

Like hunting, fishing is also regulated by KDFWR. To legally fish in Kentucky, anyone who is 16 years of age or older is required to purchase a fishing permit. These permits last for one day or one year for residents and seven days or 15 days for nonresidents, and can be obtained online, through a KDFWR office, or at local retail stores. A separate permit is required in Kentucky to fish for trout (KDFWR 2011).

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

Impacts to recreation would be considered significant if they drastically reduced, increased, or removed available public lands designated for recreation or significantly degraded the quality of the recreation. Impacts to environmental conditions such as air, water, or biological resources within or near public recreational land in such a way to affect its use would also be considered significant.

3.2.2.1 Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

The Proposed Action has the potential to provide long-term, beneficial impacts to recreational resources in Kentucky. Expanding the Mourning Dove Access Program and establishing the CREP Hunter Access Program and Landowner Fishing Access Program would create more opportunities for citizens to enjoy the wildlife-related recreational activities throughout Kentucky. Expansion of the programs would allow

more opportunities and venues for hunting and fishing on private property. During the installation of habitat improvement projects there could be short-term, negative impacts to recreational resources because the land may not be accessible or activities could disturb wildlife and game species. However, the increased funding for habitat improvement would also lead to long-term, higher quality hunting and fishing opportunities. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have long-term, beneficial impacts to recreational resources in Kentucky.

3.2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Mourning Dove Access Program would continue to be administered as it is currently, and the CREP Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program would not be implemented. The benefits of increased public access for wildlife dependent recreation from the utilization of the VPA-HIP funding would not be realized.

3.3 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Socioeconomics for this PEA includes an investigation of population and demographic statistics as well as a discussion on the payouts to landowners from public access programs.

EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires a Federal agency to “make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing as appropriate, disproportionately high human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” A minority population can be defined by race, by ethnicity, or by a combination of the two classifications.

According to CEQ, a minority is defined as being one of the following groups: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, not of Hispanic origin, or Hispanic. A minority population is defined as one of these groups exceeding 50 percent of the population in an area or the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population (CEQ 1997). The U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) defines ethnicity as either being of Hispanic origin or not being of Hispanic origin. Hispanic origin is further defined as “a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central America, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race” (USCB 2001).

Each year the USCB defines the national poverty thresholds, which are measured in terms of household income and are dependent upon the number of persons within the household. Individuals falling below the poverty threshold are considered low-income individuals. USCB census tracts where at least 20 percent of the residents are considered poor are known as poverty areas (USCB 1995). When the percentage of residents considered poor is greater than 40 percent, the census tract is considered an extreme poverty area.

3.3.1 Affected Environment

3.3.1.1 Population and Demographics

As of 2009, Kentucky had an estimated total population of 4.3 million people. Kentucky's economy has traditionally been known for agriculture and coal production, but more recently automobile manufacturing has become an important industry. The population has generally been split relatively evenly between rural and urban areas. However, over the past 30 years there has been a steady increase in the urban population in Kentucky, with an estimated 2.5 million people living in urban areas while only 1.8 million residing in rural areas (USDA Economic Research Service 2011).

Kentucky's population is predominately white, with 89.6 percent of residents claiming this ethnicity in 2009. Other races within Kentucky rank as follows: African American, 7.9 percent; Asian, 1.1 percent; American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.3 percent; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.1 percent; and Hispanic, 2.7 percent. African Americans make up the largest minority population in Kentucky (USCB 2011).

In 2008, an estimated 17.3 percent of people in Kentucky were below the poverty level, which is higher than the nation as a whole (13.2 percent). Kentucky has consistently been ranked in the bottom poverty rate quintile in the past decade, and ranked 48th in the nation in 2008 (Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet 2010). Also in 2008, Kentucky lagged behind the nation in educational attainment. Of the people residing in Kentucky over the age of 25, 74.1 percent have attained a high school diploma, with only 17.1 percent of people having attained a Bachelor's degree or higher (USCB 2011).

3.3.1.2 Employment, Income, and Public Access Programs

From 2000 to 2004, Kentucky's unemployment rate roughly mirrored the national trend, though Kentucky's unemployment rate exceeded that for the nation. However, between 2005 and 2007, unemployment in Kentucky diverged from the national trend with unemployment growing in Kentucky. This coincided with the automotive sales slump in 2005 and was reflected in Kentucky's heavy automobile manufacturing industry. In recent years the unemployment rate has again begun mirroring the national trends. In 2009, the unemployment rate for Kentucky was 10.5 percent as compared to 9.6 percent for the nation (Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet 2010).

Median household income in 2008 was \$41,489, well below the national average of \$52,029. Historically, per capita income in Kentucky has generally been lower than the national average. Per capita income in 2010 was estimated to be \$31,883, which is below the national average of \$39,138 (USCB 2011, Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet 2010).

The Proposed Action has the potential to directly impact Kentucky's privately held farms, ranches, and forested lands. In 2007 there were 85,260 farms comprising 13,993,121 acres of land in Kentucky. This yields an average farm size of 164 acres (USDA 2007). Currently, landowners enrolled in the Mourning Dove Access Program can receive monetary compensation for allowing hunting access to their land.

Currently, KDFWR spends \$50,000 to implement the Mourning Dove Access Program, with that money being divided to annual lease payouts and habitat improvement among the 15 fields enrolled.

Over 100,000 acres of land are enrolled in the Green River CREP and those landowners receive monetary incentives to maintain their lands as high quality wildlife habitat. Federal and state resources invested in the Green River CREP include \$9.0 million in incentive payments, \$16.8 million in cost-share payouts, and \$18.5 million in annual rental payments since the CREP began in 2001.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Significance of an impact to socioeconomics varies depending on the setting of the Proposed Action, but 40 CFR 1508.8 states that effects may include those that induce changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate.

Environmental justice is achieved when everyone, regardless of race, culture, or income, enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and has equal access to the decision-making process. Significant environmental justice impacts would result if access to decision-making documents was denied or if any adverse environmental effects occurred that would disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations.

3.3.2.1 Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action KDFWR would use \$1,934,468 in state and federal funds over three years to expand participation in the Mourning Dove Access Program and to create two new public access programs in Kentucky. Specifically, KDFWR would use \$1,704,119 in federal VPA-HIP grant funds to increase incentive payouts for the Mourning Dove Access Program; to offer lease payouts to CREP landowners and incentive payments for performing specified mid-contract management activities; and to lease public access to privately owned fishing access sites. The federal funds would also be used to hire a Program Coordinator and two assistants to help administer the public access programs with the goal of increasing hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities on private lands.

Ultimately, all payouts to private landowners would offer a direct economic benefit to those landowners with eligible properties that voluntarily enroll. The level of monetary compensation would depend on suitable acreages enrolled for the Mourning Dove Access Program and for the CREP Hunter Access Program. Those enrolled in the CREP Hunter Access Program could also receive additional monetary compensation if they chose to perform one of the mid-contract management practices recommended by KDFWR staff biologists. Compensation for access through the Landowner Fishing Access Program would not be on a per acre basis, but would be based on the quality of the access site.

Indirectly, the increased hunting and fishing opportunities on enrolled private lands would be slightly beneficial to local economies. Traveling sportsmen and wildlife watchers would spend dollars at local eateries, hotels for lodging, gas stations, and for any other goods and supplies that might be necessary for the hunting or fishing trip. Increasing the amount of high quality lands for hunting, fishing, and wildlife

watching within Kentucky may attract out of state sportsmen, thereby bringing in more economic gain for local communities.

Goods and services (i.e., seed, plantings, equipment) necessary to perform any of the CREP mid-contract management activities would likely be purchased locally. This would provide a one-time economic benefit to the local suppliers in or near the CREP land being improved.

Under the Proposed Action, there would be no disproportionate impact to minorities or low income populations in Kentucky. The public access programs are voluntary and would only target landowners with suitable habitat. Once enrolled, participants must give equal access to all sportsmen with a valid hunting/fishing permit.

3.3.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, KDFWR would not receive funding under the VPA-HIP. The No Action Alternative would not allow for any of the positive impacts from the introduction of the VPA-HIP funding into the economy, nor would it allow for the expansion of hunting and fishing opportunities on private lands, which also brings economic benefit via lodging and purchase of goods and supplies. The Mourning Dove Access Program would be administered as it is currently and would remain underfunded. The CREP Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program would not be created without VPA-HIP funding. Therefore, the long term positive environmental benefits from activities associated with the public access programs would be diminished.

3.4 WATER RESOURCES

For this analysis, water resources include surface water quality and wetlands. The Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Water Quality Act are the primary Federal laws that protect the nation's waters including lakes, rivers, aquifers, and wetlands.

3.4.1 Affected Environment

3.4.1.1 Surface Waters

Surface water in Kentucky is managed using the Watershed Management Framework. Kentucky has seven distinct watershed units. The seven watersheds throughout Kentucky are the Four Rivers Basin, the Green and Tradewater Rivers Basin, the Salt River Basin, the Upper Cumberland River Basin, the Kentucky River Basin, the Licking River Basin, and the Big Sandy/Little Sandy and Tygarts Basin (Kentucky Division of Water 2011).

The major rivers that are found throughout Kentucky include the Cumberland River, Green River, Kentucky River, Licking River, Ohio River, Pond River, Rolling River, Tennessee River, and Tradewater River. The main lakes found in Kentucky include Barren River Lake, Cave Run Lake, Dale Hollow Lake, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, Lake Cumberland, Nolin River Lake, and Rough River Lake (Kentucky Division of Water 2011).

3.4.1.2 Wetlands

Wetlands are broadly considered “waters of the U.S.” and are defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as areas that are inundated and saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (USACE 1987). Wetlands provide valuable habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Wetlands account for less than 2.5 percent of Kentucky’s land cover. Wetlands in Kentucky have considerable environmental, socioeconomic, and aesthetic value; however, over half of the historical wetlands in Kentucky have been converted for use as cropland and pasture land. Most of the wetlands in Kentucky are palustrine. These wetlands occur along rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, and can be found in the form of bald cypress swamps, bottom-land hardwood forests, marshes, and small ponds (USGS 2011).

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Impacts to water resources would be considered significant if implementation of the Proposed Action resulted in violating laws or regulations established to protect water resources, or actions resulted in major deterioration of water quality.

3.4.2.1 Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

Surface Water

Under the Proposed Action, it is expected that implementation of the habitat improvement projects would increase habitat value by controlling less favorable species in preference for species that provide greater vegetation and wildlife value, as well as long-term decreases in erosion. Land disturbing activities during habitat improvement near riparian areas could cause a minor short-term increase in sediment loads in runoff, however, sound erosion and sediment control measures would be utilized during these activities. Once the restoration activity is complete, there would be long-term benefits associated with the stabilization of habitat near surface waters

Wetlands

The Proposed Action would not directly impact wetland areas; however, it is expected that like with the beneficial impacts described with surface waters, improving adjacent habitats to wetlands would increase wetland habitat value. Installation of the habitat improvement measure could cause a minor, short-term impact by increasing sediment loads in runoff; however, erosion and sediment control measures would be utilized during project implementation. Once the habitat has been restored, there would be long-term benefits from the stabilization of nearby areas.

3.4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Mourning Dove Access Program would continue to be administered as it is currently, and the CREP Hunter Access Program and the Landowner Fishing Access Program would not be implemented. While habitat improvement projects and restoration activities would still

occur under other grants or programs, the benefit from additional improvement projects throughout Kentucky utilizing the VPA-HIP funding would not be realized.

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CHAPTER 4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

4.1 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQ regulations stipulate that the cumulative impacts analysis within an EA should consider the potential environmental impacts resulting from “the incremental impacts of the action when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). CEQ guidance in considering cumulative impacts involves defining the scope of the other actions and their interrelationship with the Proposed Action. The scope must consider geographical and temporal overlaps among the Proposed Action and other actions. It must also evaluate the nature of interactions among these actions.

Cumulative impacts are most likely to arise when a relationship or synergism exists between the Proposed Action and other actions expected to occur in a similar location or during a similar time period. Actions overlapping with or in proximity to the Proposed Action would be expected to have more potential for a relationship than those more geographically separated.

In this PEA, the affected environment for cumulative impacts includes all of Kentucky since the public access programs are available statewide. Though the CREP Hunter Access Program would target lands in the Green River CREP, KDFWR may still enroll high value eligible lands outside the CREP if available. In addition to VPA-HIP, several other Federal and state programs in Kentucky focus on conservation. Federal programs include the CRP, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Wetlands Reserve Program. Wildlife conservation in the state of Kentucky is a multi-agency coordinated effort. Most recently, KDFWR used grant funds from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its Sport Fish Restoration Project, which focused on two main objectives: to provide for habitat improvement for sport fish habitat in Kentucky’s public reservoirs, lakes, small impoundments, and rivers for the betterment of sport fish populations, and to provide technical assistance to private landowners to help them create high quality fish habitat and allow recently created or renovated “farm ponds” to be stocked with several sport fish species.

The potential long-term impacts from mid-contract management or other habitat improvement projects within the Green River CREP or other eligible lands under the VPA-HIP in combination with other wildlife habitat conservation strategies would have overall long-term, beneficial impacts to the wildlife populations and habitat in Kentucky. Increasing public awareness of the presence of important wildlife and game species and minor activities they can do to improve habitat on their land would create an environment to support a sustained wildlife population. Therefore, cumulative impacts are expected to be beneficial to the natural environment.

4.2 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Irreversible and irretrievable commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the effect that the use of these resources has on future generations. Irreversible effects primarily result from the use

or destruction of a specific resource that cannot be replaced within a reasonable time frame. Irretrievable resource commitments involve the loss in value of an affected resource that cannot be restored as a result of the action. Under the Proposed Action, long-term beneficial impacts are expected to wildlife populations, game species, and their habitats. There would be no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

CHAPTER 5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

The purpose of mitigation is to avoid, minimize, or eliminate significant negative impacts on affected resources. CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.20) state that mitigation includes:

- Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
- Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
- Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

CEQ regulations state that all relevant reasonable mitigation measures that could avoid or minimize significant impacts should be identified, even if they are outside the jurisdiction of the lead agency or the cooperating agencies. This serves to alert agencies or officials who can implement these extra measures, and will encourage them to do so. The lead agency for this Proposed Action is FSA. The state partner agency is KDFWR.

There are no expected long-term, significant negative impacts associated with implementation of the VPA-HIP in Kentucky. KDFWR staff or representatives would complete site specific environmental evaluation before giving recommendations for mid-contract management activities in the Green River CREP, or habitat improvements on other eligible lands. CREP lands are required to undergo approved mid-contract management activities and are routinely disturbed to maintain high quality habitat. In those site specific instances where a wetland, threatened or endangered species, or a cultural resource may be present, consultation with the appropriate lead agency would identify specific mitigation measures required to eliminate or reduce the negative impacts to an acceptable level.

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CHAPTER 6.0 PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONTACTED

The Nature Conservancy
Mr. Jeff Sole
642 W. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40508

Quail Unlimited
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CHAPTER 7.0 REFERENCES

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CHAPTER 8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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APPENDIX A – LANDOWNER FISHING ACCESS PROGRAM
EVALUATION FORMS

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Exhibit 2.

Landowner Stream Access Leasing Program

Date Completed:

Landowner Name:

Stream/County:

Scoring Criteria	Point Range			Score
<p>(1) Does the stream access site have favorable fishing opportunities/habitat? <i>* Consider the quality of fishery present at this access site.</i> <i>* Consider the quality of the fish and wildlife habitat at this site.</i> <i>* Does this access site connect to adjacent high quality fishing areas.</i> <i>* Will anglers have a good fishing experience at this site.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	Excellent Fishing (10)	Fair Fishing (5)	Poor Fishing (1)	
<p>(2) Will the stream access site accommodate multiple (10) anglers? <i>* Sites that can accommodate a greater number of anglers will receive higher priority score.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	≥ 10 anglers (10)	9-4 anglers (5)	< 4 anglers (1)	
<p>(3) How much stream frontage is included in program? <i>* Sites with larger amounts of stream frontage will earn more points due to the increase stream access area and the number of anglers that can be accommodate.</i> <i>* Consider the accessibility of the entire frontage being gained (is only a portion of it actually usable for bank fishing).</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	>5000 ft (10)	4999-2000 ft (7)	1999-500 ft (3)	<500 ft (1)
<p>(4) Is the parking site for the stream access easily accessible from main roads? <i>* Consider does it require a 4x4 vehicle to reach the parking site.</i> <i>* Is the site accessible from major highways and roadways listed on gazetteers and maps.</i> <i>* Are roadways paved or graveled leading to the site, as well as, what are access roads like at the landowner leading to the parking area.</i> <i>* No/few sharp or difficult turns.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	Easily Accessed (10)	Mod. Difficulty to Access (5)	Very Difficult to Access (1)	
<p>(5) Does the stream access site provide adequate parking for public anglers? <i>* Highest scoring give to those sites that provide parking for 10 or more vehicles and possible trailers. Consider the state of the parking area (gravel, unimproved, field, shoulder drop-offs, turnarounds).</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	≥ 10 cars (10)	4-9 cars (5)	< 4 cars (1)	
<p>(6) Is parking located near the stream access site and does it allow easy access to the fishery?</p>	Easy Distance	Moderate Distance	Lengthy/Diff. Distance	

* Consider the distance anglers would need to traverse from the parking area to the stream bank.	(10)	(5)	(1)	
* Consider the difficulty anglers will have to traverse from the parking area to the stream bank.				
Mandatory Comments:				
(7) Will the stream access site be open for fishing the entire year?	9-12 Months	6-9 Months	< 6 Months	
* Consider the water level at this access site throughout the year (will water be present during summer/droughts).	(10)	(5)	(1)	
* Will landowner require the stream access site to be closed during seasonal periods.				
* Will stream access be possible during periods of high flow.				
Mandatory Comments:				
(8) Is the stream access site well maintained with no/few hazards to the public?	No Hazards	Few/Low Severity Hazards	Many/Low Severity Hazards	Many/High Severe Hazards
* Hazards include steep or difficult terrain, hazardous wading, railroad crossing, negotiating around equipment/buildings, poorly maintained fields, downed trees, potholes, fencelines, or other obstacles that may pose a danger to anglers.	(10)	(7)	(3)	(0)
* Are property lines clearly identified to prevent trespassing.				
Mandatory Comments:				
(9) Will the landowner allow boating, canoe, and kayak access in addition to the stream fishing access?	Mult. Access	One Access Type	No Access Type	
* Most points given to those landowners who will offer a minimum of two of the three activities.	(10)	(5)	(0)	
* 5 points given for allowing one of the three activities.				
* Zero points given if no activities are allowed.				
Mandatory Comments:				
(10) Will the landowner require no/few restrictions to enroll in the program?	No Restrict.	Few Restrict.	Many Restrict.	
* Restrictions impacting scoring may include: (1) fishing hours; (2) getting landowner permission; (3) limiting angler numbers; (4) size/creel limits; (5) limits on fishing gears/types.	(10)	(5)	(1)	
* Common restrictions not impacting their scoring may include: (1) parking only in designated areas; (2) no alcohol; (3) no firearms; (4) no littering; (5) no campfires; (6) no swimming; (7) no camping; (8) no off-road vehicles (ATV's).				
Mandatory Comments:				
(11) Will the stream access site require preparation costs prior to enrollment in the program?	No Costs	Few Costs	Many Costs	
	(10)	(5)	(1)	

* Consider costs such as parking area development, gravel, posts to prevent driving off of areas, fencing, and signs.

Mandatory Comments:

(12) Will landowner enroll in a multiple year lease?	5 Years (10)	2-4 Years (5)	1 Year (1)
--	-----------------	------------------	---------------

Mandatory Comments:

(13) Miscellaneous Comments Regarding Stream Site (Can Award up to 10 Points)

* Consider additional comments about the site that have not been touched upon in the ranking criteria.

* What additional expenses may occur as a result of enrollment.

* What costs would help encourage enrollment.

* Will the landowner offer additional pond or boat ramp leases?

* Will the site help develop a positive stream fishing experience.

Notes Section:

(List restrictions required by landowner)

Total Score

Scoring

Annual Compensation

\$2500 - \$2000

\$1999 - \$1500

\$1499 - \$1000

\$999 - \$500

< \$499

Exhibit 3.

Landowner Boat Ramp Leasing Program

Date Completed:

Landowner Name:

Waterbody/County:

Scoring Criteria	Point Range			Score
<p>(1) Is the boat ramp easily accessible from main roadways? <i>*Consider does it require a 4x4 vehicle to reach the boat ramp.</i> <i>* Is the boat ramp accessible from major highways and roadways listed on gazetteers and maps.</i> <i>* Are roadways paved or graveled leading to the boat ramp, as well as, are access roads like at the landowner leading to the boat ramp.</i> <i>* No/few sharp or difficult turns.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	Easily Accessible (10)	Mod. Difficulty to Access (5)	Very Difficult to Access (1)	
<p>(2) Is the boat ramp in good condition? <i>* Consider the general state of the boat ramp. Are there cracks, sloping slabs, broken off pieces, is the end of the ramp washed out, siltation, poor slope, adequate water depth.</i> <i>* Is the roading down to the ramp in good condition. Is it paved or graveled, adequate turnarounds to launch, debris removed.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	Good Condition (10)	Average Condition (5)	Poor Condition (1)	
<p>(3) Does the boat ramp require a 4x4 vehicle to launch <i>* Consider the steepness of the ramp to launch and remove a boat. A ramp may be in excellent shape, but still may require 4x4 vehicles to launch.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	No (10)	Yes (5)		
<p>(4) Does the boat ramp allow access to a variety of sizes/types of boats? <i>* Consider this respective to the waterbody (i.e. it unrealistic to expect to launch 21 foot bass boats into Elkhorn Creek). For Elkhorn Creek, it would be ideal to be able to launch canoes, kayaks, and small jon boats.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	All Boats (10)	Most Boats (5)	No Boats (1)	
<p>(5) Does the boat ramp provide adequate parking for vehicles and trailers <i>* Most points are give to a boat ramp that can provide parking for a minimum of 5 vehicles and trailers.</i> <i>* Is parking acceptable and safe for vehicles and trailers. Is it accomodating to boaters to easily park and launch boats.</i></p> <p>Mandatory Comments:</p>	≥ 5 trailers (10)	2-4 trailers (5)	1 trailer (1)	
<p>(6) Will the boat ramp remain open and usable during the entire year? <i>* Consider water level at the boat ramp throughout the year (will water be present during summer/drought).</i> <i>* Will landowner require the boat ramp to be closed during seasonal periods.</i> <i>* Will the boat ramp be unusable during periods of high flow.</i></p>	9-12 Months (10)	6-9 Months (5)	<6 Months (1)	

Mandatory Comments:				
(7) Does the boat ramp provide boating access to large sections of previously unaccessible water? <i>* Consider the distance boaters will be able to travel.</i> <i>* Unlimited distance is the most desireable.</i> <i>* Obstacles to travel include riffles, shoals, debris.</i>	Unlimited Travel (10)	2-5 Miles of Travel (5)	< 1 miles of Travel (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(8) Will the boat ramp require preparation costs before the ramp is made usable to the public? <i>* Consider cost of needed gravel, concrete work, slab work, filling in of potholes, filling in of washout holes, correcting of slope, debris removal.</i>	No Costs (10)	Few Costs (5)	Many Costs (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(9) Does the landowner require restrictions to enroll the boat ramp into the program? <i>* Restrictions impacting scoring may include: (1) getting landowner permission; (2) closure of the ramp during seasons or certain periods; (3) restrictions on types of boats that may launch.</i> <i>* Common restrictions not impacting their scoring may include: (1) parking only in designated areas; (2) no alcohol; (3) no firearms; (4) no littering; (5) no campfires; (6) no swimming; (7) no camping; (8) no off-road vehicles (ATV's); (9) day use only.</i>	No Restrict. (10)	Few Restrict. (5)	Many Restrict. (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(10) Proximity of this boat ramp to existing public boat ramps or other leased boat ramps within the same waterbody/system? <i>* Consider the distance to other public boat ramps on the same pools or systems. If other ramps are nearby, this may result in lower point scores.</i>	> 10 Miles (10)	5-9 Miles (5)	< 5 Miles (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(11) What is the quality of the sport fishery that this boat ramp gives anglers access to? <i>* Consider both the quality of the fishery, as well as the abundance of fish within the fishery.</i>	Excel. Quality and Numbers (10)	Excel. Quality/ Low Numbers (7)	Low Quality/ High Numbers (4)	Low Quality and Numbers (1)
Mandatory Comment (describe sportfishery):				
(12) Will the landowner enroll in a multiple year lease?	5 Years (10)	2-4 Years (5)	1 Year (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(13) Miscellaneous Comments Regarding the Boat Ramp (Can Award up to 10 Points)				

* Consider additional comments about the boat ramp that have not been touched upon in the ranking criteria.
 * What additional costs may occur as a result of enrollment.
 * What costs would help encourage enrollment.
 * Will the boat ramp help develop a positive fishing experience.

Notes:

(List restrictions)

Total
Score:

Scoring

Annual Compensation

\$1500 - \$1250

\$1249 - \$1000

\$999 - \$750

\$749 - 500

<\$499

Exhibit 4.

Landowner Pond Leasing Program

Date Completed:

Landowner Name:

Pond Name/County:

Scoring Criteria	Point Range				Score
(1) Size of the pond? <i>* Larger ponds will be give higher point values as they tend to hold better fisheries.</i>	> 10 Acres (10)	5-9 Acres (7)	1-4 Acres (4)	< 1 Acre (1)	
Mandatory Comments:					
(2) Does the pond provide a quality sport fishery? <i>* Consider both the quality of the fishery, as well as the abundance of fish within the fishery.</i>	Excel. Quality and Numbers (10)	Excel. Quality/ Low Numbers (7)	Low Quality/ High Numbers (4)	Low Quality and Numbers (1)	
Mandatory Comments (describe sportfishery):					
(3) Is the pond easily accessible from main roads? <i>* Consider does it take a 4x4 vehicle to reach the pond. * Is the pond accessible from major highways and roadways listed on gazetteers and maps. *Are roadways paved or graveled leading to the pond, as well as, what are access roads like at the pondowner leading to the pond. * No/few sharp or difficult turns.</i>	Easily Accessed (10)	Mod. Difficult to Access (5)	Very Difficult to Access (1)		
Mandatory Comments:					
(4) How great a distance to other public bank fishing areas? <i>* Consider other ponds enrolled in the program or state-owned lakes that offer bank fishing areas. * Higher points may be given to ponds that occur in areas lacking bank fishing opportunities.</i>	> 30 Miles (10)	10-30 Miles (5)	< 10 Miles (1)		
Mandatory Comments:					
(5) Will the pond be open the entire year? <i>* Consider the ponds ability to hold water during summer/drought. * Will landowner require the pond to be closed during seasonal periods.</i>	9-12 Months (10)	6-9 Months (5)	<6 Months (1)		
Mandatory Comments:					
(6) Is the pond well maintained with no/few hazards? <i>* Consider the amount of terrestrial vegetation anglers would have to walk through, aquatic vegetation, willows, trees, potholes, steep banks, deep grass.</i>	No Hazards (10)	Few Hazards (5)	Many Hazards (1)		
Mandatory Comments:					

(7) Does the pond provide adequate parking for the angling public? * Consider the amount of parking available at the pond. * Is the parking area graveled or mowed. * Is the parking area near the pond.	≥ 5 Vehicles (10)	2-4 Vehicles (5)	1 Vehicle (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(8) Does the landowner require numerous restrictions? * Restrictions impacting scoring may include: (1) getting landowner permission; (2) closure of pond during seasons or certain periods; (3) size/creeel limits; (4) gear restrictions. * Common restrictions not impacting their scoring may include: (1) parking only in designated areas; (2) no alcohol; (3) no firearms; (4) no littering; (5) no campfires; (6) no swimming; (7) no camping; (8) no off-road vehicles (ATV's) (9) day use only.	No Restrict. (10)	Few Restrict. (5)	Many Restrict. (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(9) Will the pond require preparation costs? * Consider costs of gravel, fencing, stocking, vegetation treatment.	No Costs (10)	Few Costs (5)	Many Costs (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(10) Will the landowner enroll in a multiple year lease?	5 Years (10)	2-4 Years (5)	1 Year (1)	
Mandatory Comments:				
(11) Miscellaneous Comments Regarding Pond (Can Award up to 10 Points) * Consider additional comments about the boat ramp that have not been touched upon in the ranking criteria. * What additional costs may occur as a result of enrollment. * What costs would help encourage enrollment. * Will the boat ramp help develop a positive fishing experience.				
Notes: (List restrictions)				Total Score

Scoring

- Annual Compensation
\$2000 -
\$1500
\$1499 -
\$1250
\$1249 - 1000
\$999 - 500
< \$499

APPENDIX B – AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

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June 17, 2011

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 0513
Washington, DC
20250-0513

TO: Mr. Jeff Sole
The Nature Conservancy
642 W. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40508

FROM: Matthew T. Ponish
United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency
National Environmental Compliance Manager

SUBJECT: Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact for Voluntary Public Access Habitat Incentive Program in the State of Nebraska

The United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency (FSA) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has prepared a Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to examine the potential environmental consequences associated with implementing a Voluntary Public Access Habitat Incentive Program for Kentucky. The PEA examines the Proposed Action and the no action alternative environmental baseline on natural and socioeconomic resources.

A copy of the Final PEA/FONSI has been provided on CD for your convenience. The Final PEA is also available at the following website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecrc&topic=nep-cd>.

The agency is accepting comments until **July 18, 2011**.

Comments may be e-mailed to: Dana Banwart at dhbanwart@tecinc.com

Written comments may be mailed to:

TEC Inc.
11817 Canon Blvd., Suite 300
Newport News, VA 23606

We appreciate your review and look forward to receiving your comments.

Matthew T. Ponish

Enclosure: 1 CD



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