



# Kentucky's Statewide Forest Resources

## Assessment and Strategy Now Complete

by *Diana Olszowy*

The Kentucky Division of Forestry's mission is to protect, conserve, and enhance the forest resources of the Commonwealth through a public informed of the environmental, social, and economic importance of these resources. The division worked with many state and federal partners, nonprofit organizations, and the general public in the development of the Kentucky Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy Report.

### Issue Development

The Division of Forestry completed the assessment and strategy in June 2010. After gathering input from all stakeholders, five primary issues for rural and urban forests were identified:

1. Forest Health
2. Water Quality and Quantity
3. Forest Loss and Fragmentation
4. Forest Management
5. Funding

For each issue, the following parameters were defined: issue description, forest resources, public benefits, key conditions, direct threats, contributing factors, and opportunities.

### Assessment

#### and Strategy Sections:

The assessment provides a comprehensive analysis of forest-related conditions, trends, and opportunities within the state. The strategy provides a long-term, comprehensive strategy for investing state, federal and leveraged-partner resources to address landscape-scale priorities identified in the assessment. The strategy incorporates existing statewide forest and resource management plans and provides the basis for future program direction and agency and partner coordination.

### Data Sources

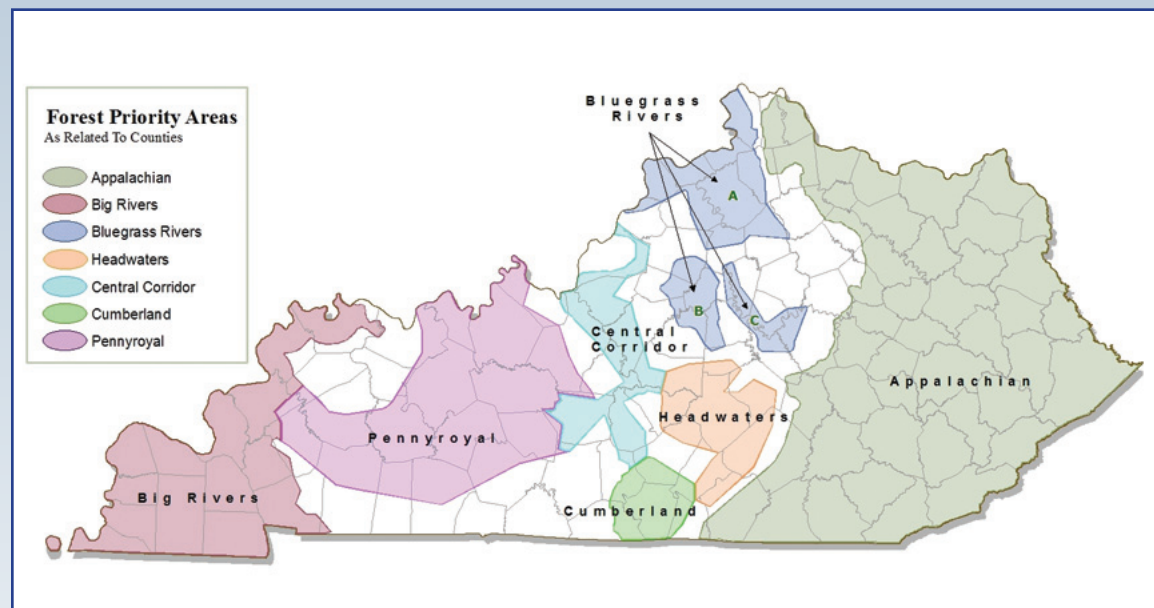
The division used data layers from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, the Kentucky Department

of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Kentucky Division of Water, the Southern Forest Land Assessment, and many other key sources. These overlapping data layers helped identify common priority areas across the landscape.

Additional layers using population growth statistics, such as Radeloff's model, impervious layers statistics that have been developed for urban analysis, and data layers from our numerous partners were incorporated into the development of this comprehensive assessment and strategy document.

The citizens of Kentucky receive multiple benefits from our extensive forestlands, including timber and non-timber forest products; recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, and camping; and clean water and air. With so much at stake and because the general public, policymakers and land managers need information about our forestlands we prepared the Kentucky Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy to serve as a resource for all partners involved in forestland management activities. The document can be viewed free online at [www.forestry.ky.gov](http://www.forestry.ky.gov). If you prefer a hard copy, it is available, with a minimal postal fee for shipping.

Map courtesy: Kentucky Division of Forestry



### About the Author:

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