

# KDF Corner...

## Forestry Planning Then and Now

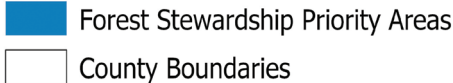
by Pam Snyder

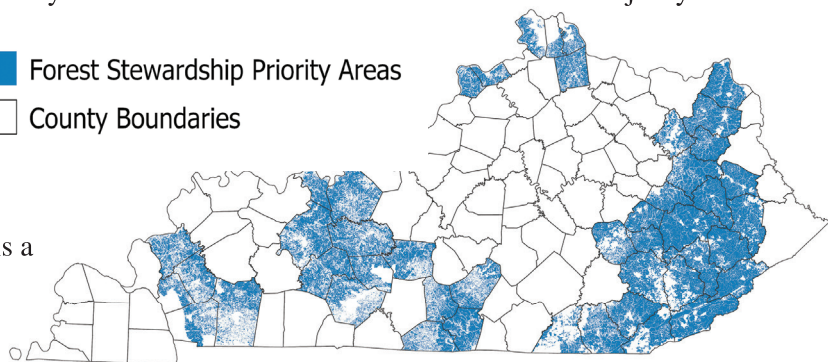
### Planning for the next 10 years...

The 2008 Farm Bill required each state to complete a Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (SFRAS) document. The SFRAS has evolved into the Kentucky Forest Action Plan (FAP). In 2010, the division released the first edition of the FAP. It examined historical, current and future forest trends covering five major issues (water quality and quantity, forest health, forest loss and fragmentation, forest management and funding). Input was received from nonprofits, partners, federal and state level agencies and the public. Assessments, goals, objectives and strategies were developed within the FAP. It has served as a strategic plan for Kentucky's forestlands and guides the division in planning for long-term sustainability of Kentucky's forest resources.

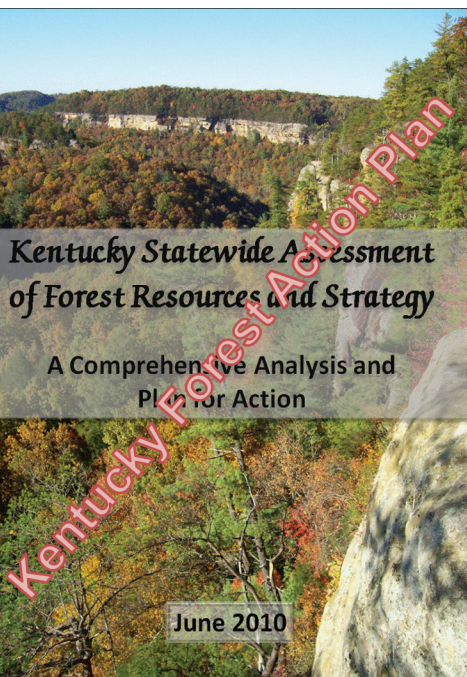
In 2015, the state forester reviewed the Kentucky FAP ensuring its strategies addressed the National Priorities and Themes. The 2018 Farm Bill requires each to update their FAP on a ten-year cycle. To meet that requirement, a very dedicated group of division employees has been working for almost a year now to review and revise the FAP. Input was sought to ensure the issues were still important to partners and citizens. New initiatives and opportunities since 2010 have been included in the strategies to address the issues.

The biggest change people are likely to see is a more focused effort in identifying priority areas. The division reduced the footprint of designated state-level priority areas. Forest stewardship priority areas were established in and out of the state-level priority areas. The new forest stewardship priority areas will focus on technical assistance and accomplishing tasks more efficiently for the division concerning the forest stewardship program. Urban priority areas have also been identified. Because the majority of Kentucky's citizens reside in urban areas, providing for sustainability of urban forest resources is a daily challenge.

 Forest Stewardship Priority Areas  
County Boundaries



*The areas highlighted in blue represent the new Forest Stewardship Priority Areas. However the Kentucky Division of Forestry will continue to serve all areas of the Commonwealth forestry community.*



*The 2010 Kentucky Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy is being revised for 2020 and will serve as a guiding document for the Kentucky forestry community.*

Focusing the priority areas does not mean the division will not provide its services statewide. Priority areas are areas where the most benefit can be achieved in addressing the issues. The division will still provide its services to all landowners, communities and partners requesting them.

The division is working on compiling all the information into a final product. The 2020 Kentucky FAP will be a guiding document for addressing the 12 million acres of forests in Kentucky.

#### About the Author:

*Pam Snyder, is the Forest Management Chief with the Kentucky Division of Forestry and works on a variety of forest management needs for private landowners, farmers, and governmental agencies. She is one of the editors of the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.*

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