

Biodiversity Goals of the Kentucky Conservation Committee (KCC) and its Affiliate Organizations

If the KCC and our affiliates could have a brief conversation with each Kentucky lawmaker, we would underscore the counsel of our scientists, researchers, physicians and conservationists. They are offering, in nearly a single voice, solid advice upon which our elected officials should act:

KCC can affirm that conservation is popular: The results of polls in Kentucky, as in many states, are a testament to the desire of the public for nature to be intact and available. Citizens reject unsustainable or false choices, and they believe that business and conservation can thrive together.

KCC advocates for care, stewardship and forethought: Biodiversity, or the quantity and variety of life, sustains human existence, and cannot be duplicated by any man made structure.

A small number of untouched areas, our Nature Preserves, are cherished for their scientific and inspirational merit, but are threatened by invasive plants and pests. In Kentucky lack of sufficient oversight can leave vulnerable regions depleted by trespass, illegal collecting, timber theft, and overuse. Everywhere, the rapid loss of habitat, on the order of a square mile daily, makes it easy to see why even familiar species are becoming rare.

Legislators have jurisdiction over plants, animals and diverse aquatic types of life that are imperiled or rare, some unique in the entire world. Our living assets require adequate consideration to survive and to contribute.

KCC can offer support, guidance and solutions: Other states have successfully faced similar problems setting aside more land, addressing the problems of habitat loss and restoration, working to identify and support populations of rare plants and animals, and fostering the use of native products. KCC and its affiliates have the expertise, goodwill and aspiration to help.