Kentucky’s Jackson Purchase Region: Overview and Management of Public and Private Lands

• Tony Black:
  – Wildlife Regional Program Coordinator: Purchase Region

• Pat Hahs
  – Public lands Supervisor, Purchase Region

• Zak Danks
  – Private lands Biologist, Purchase Region

• Keith Wethington
  – Wildlife Program Coordinator: Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Information System
Kentucky Facts

• How do you pronounce the capitol of Kentucky?
• Loo—ville?
• Louis-ville?
• Louie-ville?
• FRANKFORT!!?
Kentucky Facts

• Originally part of Virginia, It became the 15\textsuperscript{th} state 1792
• Kentucky Derby is the oldest continuously held horse race in the country. It is held at Churchill Downs in Louisville
• Mammoth Cave is the world's longest cave, 1\textsuperscript{st} promoted in 1816, making it the second oldest tourist attraction in the United States. Niagara Falls, New York is first.
• Over $6 billion worth of gold is held at Fort Knox. Largest amount of gold stored anywhere in the world.
Level 2 Ecoregions of North America EPA
Level 3 Ecoregions of North America EPA

- 68 Southwestern Appalachians
- 69 Central Appalachians
- 70 Western Allegheny Plateau
- 71 Interior Plateau
- 72 Interior River Valleys and Hills
- 73 Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- 74 Mississippi Valley Loess Plains
Jackson Purchase

- a.k.a. Purchase Region, The Purchase, God’s Country
- Includes western Tennessee and southwestern Kentucky
- Tennessee River on the east, Ohio River on the north, and the Mississippi River on the west
- Ceded to the United States by the Chickasaw Nation in 1818
- Negotiated by Andrew Jackson
Although technically part of Kentucky at its statehood in 1792, the land did not come under definitive U.S. control until 1818, when Andrew Jackson and Isaac Shelby purchased it from the Chickasaw Indians. Kentuckians generally call this region the Purchase. Jackson's purchase also included all of Tennessee west of the Tennessee River.

In modern usage the term Jackson Purchase refers only to the Kentucky portion of the acquisition. The Tennessee region directly to the south is typically called West Tennessee.

The Purchase Region is distinctive in many ways from the rest of Kentucky. The interplay of major continental rivers has created a relatively flat depositional environment that is similar in many ways to the Gulf Coast further south. The abundant water, wetlands, and fertile soil combine to make this one of the most ecologically diverse areas of Kentucky.

Additionally, the Purchase is the most intensively row cropped area of Kentucky. The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has implemented several strategies to conserve and protect the unique features of this area.

One strategy has been direct purchase and management of public land in the area. Another strategy has been to dedicate staff to work with private land owners. Each of these approaches poses their own unique challenges and rewards.
Level 1 Ecoregions of North America EPA