

2022

AT A GLANCE



TENNESSEE
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION



Friends,

Aldo Leopold once said, “There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.” This year we continued our efforts to conserve our wildlife, waters, and wild places. And, as we look back on this year, we are proud of many accomplishments. These wouldn’t have been possible without you.

Despite the continued challenges to conservation in our great state, the Federation fought bad bills and helped advocate for good bills. We worked with the Lee administration on strong policies and new ideas while significantly expanding our engagement across Tennessee. We stopped a threat to Yanahli Wildlife Management Area in its tracks. We helped secure federal funding that will help wildlife agencies battle chronic wasting disease. We significantly expanded our Hunting and Fishing Academy programming and reach, teaching outdoor skills and ensuring the next generation of conservationists. And, we completed our largest wetland restoration to date. This report just skims the surface of what you made possible for our great state.

As we enter 2023, we look forward to your continued partnership in our mission to support Tennessee’s wildlife, waters, and wild places and conserve it for generations to come. It is our passion for the outdoors that drives everything we do. On behalf of each of us at the Federation, we thank you.

Support us in 2023



Michael Butler
Chief Executive Officer

Kendall McCarter
Chief Development Officer



CONSERVATION POLICY

Secured critically-needed federal funds
for chronic wasting disease

Engaged the community on important
issues like disappearing grasslands

Promoted the balanced recreational use
of Tennessee rivers

Fought against bills that
would impact public lands and conservation funding

5,800+ advocacy actions taken



HUNTING AND FISHING ACADEMY

140+

volunteer mentors
trained

4,081 participants

- are confident about hunting and fishing
- have more outdoor skills
- will go hunting and fishing on their own



SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM

1,600+

athletes

**450 coaches
& volunteers**

nearly double from last year

300 athletes

competed in nationals

17 first place finishers



HABITAT CONSERVATION

**150 acres of
wetlands**

restored

3 projects in the works

**3 miles of
streams**

restored

3 projects in the works

**100,000
native
trees**

planted



HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY

**129,300
pounds**

of venison donated

**517,000+
servings**

provided to food banks
and soup kitchens



OUR WORK

Federation Clinches a Win for Public Lands

Public wildlife management areas (WMAs) managed by the state agency are a valuable asset to Tennesseans and Tennessee's rural economies, and Yanahli is one of the state's most popular.

In early February 2022, Tennessee Representative Scott Cepicky and Senator Joey Hensley introduced bills that would have transferred ownership of the 12,800-acre Yanahli Wildlife Management Area from the state of Tennessee to Maury County government. Hunters and anglers were concerned that these properties would have been diverted to other uses not compatible with hunting and angling, or poorly managed. The reason for this concern was well-founded because of efforts over the past two years in Maury County to develop up to 500 acres of protected land within the WMA to build an agricenter.

Yanahli represents only 3% of Maury County's land, but provides a disproportionate positive economic impact. Yanahli is also a critically important area for outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing, and is recognized as one of the state's top-producing WMAs. WMAs in general have 140,000 annual users, are utilized by 64% of sportsmen's license holders, and provide 3.44 million recreation days per year for the public.

When the bills were introduced, the Federation quickly reached out to other NGOs and formed a coalition. Within mere days of forming the coalition and issuing our Policy Action Alerts, more than 1,200 individuals had emailed their legislators opposing the bill. As a result, **the bills never even made it to committees.** They were withdrawn before they had the chance to be heard thanks to the swift action by the Federation, our coalition partners, and concerned citizens.



OUR WORK

Federation's Largest Wetland Restoration to Date

In 2022, the Federation completed its largest wetland restoration to date. The privately-owned site is located in the floodplain of the Cumberland River in Stewart County. We restored nearly 100 acres of poor-quality agricultural fields to functioning wetland habitat, and almost 15,000 trees and shrubs were planted.

Habitat restoration projects are vital, given the rapid development happening in Tennessee. Tennessee has lost an estimated 60 percent of its wetlands. **Wetlands are critical for absorbing flood waters, wildlife habitat, and to filter sediment and pollutants from our water supply.**

The property is home to numerous waterfowl species, osprey, a bald eagle nesting site, turtles, frogs, and more. Moreover, the property is connected to public land, extending the habitat for wetland plants and wildlife.

Native shrubs and trees were specially chosen to provide forage and cover for wildlife. The team planted buttonbush, silky dogwood, blackgum, swamp white oak, swamp chestnut, willow oak, and American elm.

When the Cumberland River was channelized, the wetland area was partially filled in leaving the land less attractive for wildlife. This project brings this land full circle to reverse the dredging impacts and restore it to a thriving habitat for wildlife.

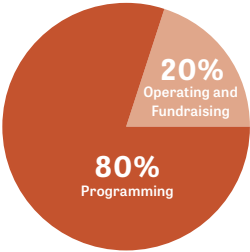
Conservationists like you make all the difference.

Tennessee Wildlife Federation was founded by people like you—sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts—more than 75 years ago. For decades our work has conserved Tennessee’s wildlife, waters, and wild places.

Support from individuals, families, foundations, and state agencies allow us to manage wildlife populations and restore habitats for a more vibrant Tennessee. This financial support also gets the next generation outdoors so they are inspired to fight for our wildlife.

Tennessee Wildlife Federation is honored by the trust and faith of our supporters. We don’t take any gift for granted and are committed to transparency in both our work and our financial reporting.

For every dollar we receive to conserve Tennessee’s wildlife, \$0.80 goes to support our mission-driven programs with \$0.20 covering administration and fundraising expenses.



Fiscal Year 2022 Financials

Income	\$5,679,425
Expenses	\$4,567,942
Programming Expenses	\$3,672,473
Operating and Fundraising Expenses	\$ 895,469
Net proceeds from Federation activities	\$ 81,075*

**Extracted from consolidated audit*

