



**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

Matthew G. Bevin
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August 12, 2019

Jeff Boxrucker, Coordinator
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
9321 E. State Highway 9
Norman, OK 73026

RE: 2019 Request for Proposals, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
Barren River Lake Large Scale Fish Habitat Project

Dear Mr. Boxrucker:

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) in association with the Barren River Lake Fisheries Habitat Committee are pleased to submit this proposal to the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. Barren River Lake was built in 1964, covers 10,000 acres at summer pool, and has an extreme drawdown of 24 feet during winter. Age related habitat loss is evident but the large drawdown has likely accelerated and exacerbated the loss more than other similarly sized lakes in Kentucky.

The Barren River Lake Fisheries Habitat Committee formed in fall of 2018 to address the habitat loss. The committee consists of federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, fishing guides, local and statewide bass clubs, and individual anglers. The committee developed a long-term, lake-wide project expected to span multiple years to increase the habitat in the lake. Initial placement of habitat began in summer 2019 with natural and artificial materials fashioned into "structures" placed at 14 sites. The next phase will occur during the winter 2019-2020 drawdown. The use of donated material and multiple volunteer groups is a significant part of the effort because of the long duration and large size of the project. The outreach capability of the committee will boost lake related recreation and economy. Additionally, partnerships established by committee members will boost conservation awareness furthering the mission of the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership.

Thank you. We look forward to continuing our work with you. Please contact me if you have any questions at 502-892-4471 or email, mike.hardin@ky.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Hardin".

Mike Hardin, Assistant Director Div. of Fisheries