

EASTERN REDCEDAR TREE HARVEST AGREEMENT BETWEEN
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET

What can a highway department do with woody trees that invade into the highway clear zone? If you are the **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC)**, you work with your resource agencies to find a win-win solution for your problem. Under a recently signed Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) with the **United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**, the USFWS harvests eastern redcedar trees, Juniperus virginiana, from KYTC right-of-way for use in bioengineering streambank stabilization projects in their Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. This voluntary program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners, utilizing a combination of public, private, and partnership resources to accomplish habitat restoration. In this case, stream restoration and stream bank stabilization is accomplished through bioengineering techniques using natural vegetative materials.

The eastern redcedar tree is one of the most viable naturally occurring bioengineering resources that is available in sufficient quantities to be of value for use in streambank stabilization and the control of erosion on streambanks. The MOA will benefit both agencies. The USFWS will work in partnership with other federal, state, and local government entities, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens to harvest the eastern redcedar trees from KYTC-approved right-of-way, for use in bioengineering streambank stabilization projects. This supply of natural material will assist the USFWS in its Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The environment will benefit as the control of the loss of soil from streambanks will improve the quality of the water in Kentucky's streams, which will enhance the livelihood of productive fish populations, and will also reduce erosion and sedimentation.

Under this agreement, the eastern redcedar trees that are removed from the highway clear zone can be beneficially used as a valuable bioengineering resource for stream bank stabilization. This is considered by both agencies as a far better outcome than converting them to wood chips or burning them as debris as had been typically done in the past. Therefore, the MOA provides stewardship opportunities not only for the environment, but also for roadside vegetation management and roadside safety. For additional information on this KYTC initiative please contact David Cornett at 502-564-4556 or Bree McMurray at 502-564-7250.