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New Director for Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Biologist and land manager takes helm of agency.

Frankfort, Ky. (November 17, 2016) –The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) has announced the selection of its new Director, Zeb Weese.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky with bachelors' degrees in Zoology and History and masters' degrees in Forestry and History, Weese first came to the KSNPC in 2006 as a natural areas manager. His duties ranged from hiking trail construction to invasive species control and prescribed fire implementation to zoological surveys and rare species management. Prior to that he worked at both Natural Bridge State Park and the Kentucky Department for Fish and Wildlife Resources as a conservation educator and natural resource manager.

After leaving KSNPC in 2011 to become the program coordinator and staff biologist for the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund, Weese recently returned to lead the KSNPC as director. "I am excited to play a role in furthering the KSNPC's mission to promote understanding and appreciation of the aesthetic, cultural, scientific and spiritual values of our natural areas. These special places are part of our legacy to our children and future generations. Many are also outstanding places for hikers to visit and enjoy." Weese stated.

The mission of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission is to protect Kentucky's natural habitat by (1) identifying, acquiring and managing natural areas that represent the best known occurrences of rare native species, natural communities and

significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation.

Discover more about KSNPC through our website: <http://naturepreserves.ky.gov> or Facebook at <http://facebook.com/ksnpc>.