

North Fork Kentucky River watershed near Hazard (051002-01-030)

Geography. The North Fork Kentucky River watershed near Hazard covers the northwest corner of Letcher County and part of southeast Perry County. The land is in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by mountainous terrain, rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The watershed is underlain by coals, sandstones, and shales: this geology is generally conducive to productive wells, although water quality may be low for wells that draw from coal layers.

Waterways. This watershed includes the section of the North Fork between the mouth of Rockhouse Creek (near Blackey) and the mouth of Big Creek (between Combs and Typo at the Daniel Boone Parkway). Among many creeks that feed it within this watershed are Bull Creek, Big Branch, and Buckeye Creek. Water also flows into this watershed from the North Fork headwaters, Rockhouse Creek, Line Fork, Leatherwood Creek, Maces Creek, Carr Fork and Lotts Creek watersheds.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is nearly all rural and wooded. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for municipal systems in Blackey and Hazard. Nine businesses and organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The assessed creek segment in this watershed does not support some or all of its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. See the 2000 Assessment Report or 2000 305(b) list and the 2002 303(d) list of impaired streams for full details.

Kentucky River Basin Management Plan, 2002. Information is from the first basin cycle (1997-2002), including the 1998-1999 monitoring effort and the 2000 Assessment Report. See kywatersheds.org or www.uky.edu/WaterResources/Watersheds for the complete Assessment Report and Management Plan.

Watershed Restoration Ranking			Watershed Protection Rank	Overall Watershed Rank	Framework Mobilization Category
<i>Observed Impacts</i>	<i>Potential Impacts</i>	<i>Combined Rank</i>			
High	High	High	High	High	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 63 square miles.

Provides drinking water for Blackey and Hazard.

Hazard discharges treated sewage into the watershed.

Covered by TMDL program's North Fork pathogen report.

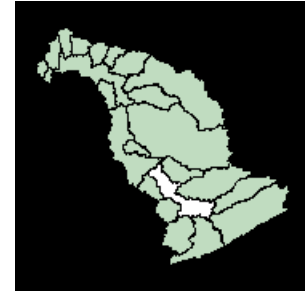
Pathogens make contact recreation unsafe in the North Fork between the Daniel Boone Parkway (Big Creek) and Hazard [2000 305(b)].

In 2000, the geometric mean of 3 fecal coliform samples taken by Watershed Watch from the North Fork at Perry County Park exceeded 8,000 col/100 mls.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 69 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.











North Fork Region



See the color map of this region on p. 119.

LEGEND

- Area of this watershed 
- Sewage plants 
- Public water supplies 
- Other water withdrawals 
- Locks & dams 
- Cities and towns 
- Rivers and larger streams 
- Smaller streams 
- County borders 