

Troublesome Creek watershed (051002-01-120)

Geography. The Troublesome Creek watershed covers northeastern Perry, central Knott, and southeastern Breathitt Counties. 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. Troublesome Creek empties into the North Fork Kentucky River at Haddix. Among the creeks that feed it are Lost Creek, Buckhorn Creek, and Balls Fork.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded. Groundwater in the watershed supplies the drinking water for the municipal system in Hindman. Twenty businesses and organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The twelve assessed creek segments in this watershed include five that do not support some or all of their designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Pathogens, siltation, and salinity from a variety of sources contribute to the impairment of these streams. 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	III

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 246 square miles.

Part of source water protection zones 2 and 3 for Jackson's water system.

Hindman discharges treated sewage into the watershed.

Plant has not always met limits.

Recent EPA grants to Hindman and Knott County will fund construction of a new regional sewer system.

Pathogens make contact recreation unsafe along length of Troublesome Creek [1998 303(d) and 2000 305(b)].

Watershed Watch focused sampling showed high fecal coliform readings in Lost Creek and Troublesome Creek.

Covered by TMDL program's North Fork pathogen report.

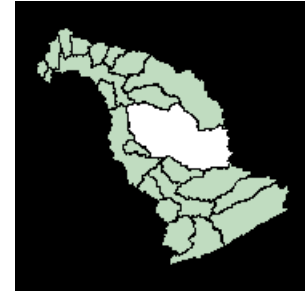
Aquatic life is impaired or partially impaired in parts of Balls Fk., Buckhorn Cr., Long Fk., and Lost Cr., and is threatened in part of Troublesome Cr. [2000 305(b)].

Water supply is an issue.

Watershed is in the PRIDE region. PRIDE identified 189 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.











North Fork Region



See the color map of this region on p. 121.

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 