

Quicksand Creek watershed (051002-01-140)

Geography. The Quicksand Creek watershed is in northeast Breathitt County and northern Knott 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. Quicksand Creek empties into the North Fork Kentucky River close to Quicksand. Among the creeks that feed it are Big Caney Creek, Hunting Fork, Hawes Fork, Spring Fork, and Laurel Fork.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded. Three businesses and organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The seven assessed creek segments in this watershed include four that do not support some or all of their designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. One is threatened. A variety of activities 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	Low	High	Low	High	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 163 square miles.

Part of source water protection zones 1, 2, and 3 for the Jackson water system.

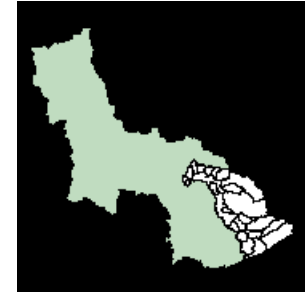
Covered by TMDL program's North Fork pathogen report. Aquatic life impaired by sedimentation in Quicksand Creek between Big Caney Creek and Spring Fork (1st priority TMDL 2002).

Aquatic life in Spring Fork, Hawes Fork, and Hunting Creek is also impaired by sedimentation and by flow alteration (1st priority TMDL 2002).

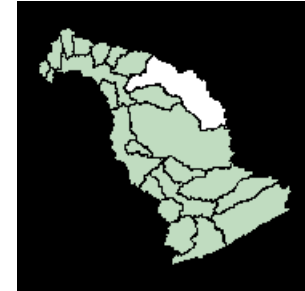
Aquatic life in a section of Big Caney Creek is classified as threatened [2000 305(b)].

Watershed Watch focused sampling showed high fecal coliform readings in Quicksand Creek.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 5 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 

