

## Cutshin Creek watershed (051002-02-020)

**Geography.** The Cutshin Creek watershed covers eastern Leslie 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.** Cutshin Creek empties into the Middle Fork Kentucky River at the town of Dryhill (near the Boone Parkway). Among the creeks that feed it are Polls Creek, Wolf Creek, Raccoon Creek, Wooton Creek, and MacIntosh Creek.

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

**Agency data assessment.** The assessed creek segments in this watershed include one (Wooton Creek) that only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Polls Creek is categorized as threatened. 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](http://kywatersheds.org) or [www.uky.edu/WaterResources/Watersheds](http://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	Medium	High	II

## Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 92 square miles.

Local data indicates fecal contamination of Cutshin Creek.

Aquatic life partially impaired by unknown causes in

Wooton Creek between its mouth and second fork (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

Aquatic life is classified as threatened in Polls Creek [2000 305(b)].

The potential for agricultural erosion is substantially higher than the basin average.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 88 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.



Middle Fork Region



See the color map of this region on p. 123.

### 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

