

## Middle Fork Kentucky River watershed near Buckhorn Lake (051002-02-030)

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**Geography.** The Middle Fork Kentucky River watershed near Buckhorn Lake covers northern Leslie County and northwestern 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 Middle Fork between Cutshin Creek and Buckhorn, including Buckhorn Lake. Among the creeks that feed it are Hell for Certain Creek, Grassy Branch, Elkhorn Creek, Rush Creek, Leatherwood Creek, Otter Creek, and Gays Creek. Water from the Middle Fork Kentucky River headwaters watershed and the Cutshin Creek watershed also flows into this watershed.

**Land and water use.** Land in the watershed is rural and wooded. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for Buckhorn Lake State Park. The park holds two permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

**Agency data assessment.** The three assessed segments in this watershed include one, Buckhorn Lake, that only partially supports 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](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	Medium	High	High	High	IV

## Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 73 square miles.  
Provides drinking water for Buckhorn Lake State Park.  
Buckhorn Lake only partially supports secondary contact recreation [such as boating; 1996 303(d)].  
Aquatic life in Buckhorn Lake is partially impaired by overenrichment [2000 305(b)].  
Watershed is in PRIDE service region.











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 