

## Red Bird River watershed (051002-03-010)

**Geography.** The Red Bird River watershed covers eastern Clay County, western Leslie County, and the northeast corner of Bell 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.** The Red Bird River joins Bullskin Creek and Goose Creek close to Oneida to form the South Fork Kentucky River. Among the creeks that feed it are Red Bird Creek, Phillips Fork, Upper Jacks Creek, Bowen Creek, Flat Creek, Big Creek, Elk Creek, Ulysses Creek, Hector Branch, Jacks Creek, and Bear Creek.

**Land and water use.** Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded. Five 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 a segment of the Red Bird River that 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](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	III

## Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 196 square miles.

Pathogens make contact recreation unsafe in the Redbird River between Goose Creek and Big Creek (1st priority TMDL 2002).

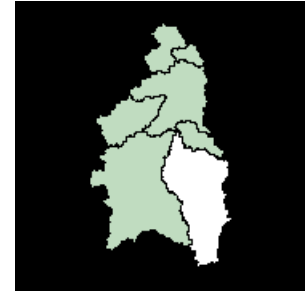
The potential for agricultural erosion is substantially higher than the basin average.

USFS has targeted this watershed for closure of illegal trails to off-road vehicles and for improvement of off-road vehicle routes that are eroding.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 302 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.



South Fork Region



See the color map of this region on p. 125.

### 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

