

South Fork Kentucky River watershed in Boone Forest (051002-03-020)

Geography. The South Fork Kentucky River watershed in Boone Forest occupies northeast Clay County, and southern Owsley 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. Unconsolidated silts, sands, and gravels occur along the flood plain of the river.

Waterways. The South Fork Kentucky River upper watershed includes the section from Oneida to just south of Booneville (approximately that portion of the river that flows through the Daniel Boone National Forest). Among the creeks that feed it are Crane Creek, Right Fork Buffalo Creek, Left Fork Island Creek, Lower Island Creek, Indian Creek, White Oak Creek, and Cow Creek. Water from the Goose Creek, Red Bird River, Bullsken Creek, and Sexton Creek watersheds also flows into this watershed.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; about 5% is agricultural. One school holds a permit 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 that only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Siltation and exotic species contribute to the impairment of the stream. 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>			
Medium	Low	Medium	High	Medium	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 130 square miles.

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

Aquatic life partially impaired by sedimentation in Left Fork Island Creek from its mouth to Holly Fork (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 103 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

