

## Meadow Creek watershed (051002-03-070)

**Geography.** The Meadow Creek watershed is in Owsley County. The higher part of the watershed is in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by mountainous terrain, rapid rates of surface runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The lower part of the watershed is in the plateau area of the coal field region, characterized by rolling terrain, medium to rapid rates of surface runoff, and slow to medium 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.** Meadow Creek empties into the South Fork Kentucky River in Booneville. Among the creeks that feed it are Split Poplar Fork, Poletown Fork, Rose Fork, Spencer Fork, Moore Fork, Wilson Fork, Sugar Camp Creek, and Zeke Branch.

**Land and water use.** Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; less than 10% is agricultural. No businesses or organizations hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

**Agency data assessment.** The assessed segment of Meadow Creek only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Sedimentation contributes 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](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	Low	High	Low	High	III

## Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 17 square miles.

Sedimentation partially impairs aquatic life in Meadow Creek between South Fork Kentucky River and Poletown and Spencer Forks (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 113 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  
