

Red Lick Creek watershed (051002-04-070)

Geography. The Red Lick Creek watershed covers the southwest corner of Estill County, the southeast corner of Madison County, and the northwest corner of Jackson County. The part of the watershed south of Red Lick Creek is in the escarpment area of the Eastern Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by hilly terrain, very rapid surface water runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The part of the watershed north of the creek is in the Knobs physiographic region, characterized by hilly terrain, very rapid surface runoff, and very slow groundwater drainage. In level parts of the Knobs, runoff and groundwater drainage are slow. 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. Parts of the watershed lie over easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones.

Waterways. Red Lick Creek empties into Station Camp Creek south of Ravenna and just northwest of Wagersville. Among the creeks that feed it are Owsley Fork, Joe Lick Fork, Cowbell Creek, Gravel Lick Branch, Stillhouse Branch, Floyd Branch, Shirley Branch, Long Branch, Horns River, and Henderson Branch.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; about 20% is agricultural. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for Berea College’s water system. No businesses or 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 fully support their 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 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>			
Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 70 square miles.

Provides some of the water for the Berea College water system.

Part of source water protection zones 2 and 3 for the Irvine water system.

Except for the Madison County section, the watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 66 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the PRIDE part of the watershed.



Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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

