

Red River Gorge watershed (051002-04-120)

Geography. The Red River Gorge watershed extends from northern Wolfe County, across southern Menifee County, to northeastern Powell County. The land is in the escarpment and plateau areas of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by rolling to hilly terrain, medium to very rapid 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. Parts of the watershed lie over sandstone aquifers. Other parts lie above inter-bedded clay shales and siltstones.

Waterways. This watershed includes the section of the Red River from just west of Hazel Green to the junction of the Red River with the Middle Fork Red River (close to Bowen). Among the creeks that feed the Red River in this watershed are Big Branch, Swift Camp Creek, Clifty Creek, Gladie Creek, Wolfpen Creek, Chimney Top Creek, Leatherwood Fork, Indian Creek, Spaas Creek, and Short Creek. Water also flows into the watershed from the Stillwater Creek and Red River headwaters watersheds.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; about 15% is agricultural. The surface waters of the watershed supply drinking water for the Campton municipal system. Nine 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 one (an unnamed tributary of Swift Camp Creek) that does not support all of 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.

See the Watershed Plan for this watershed on page 24.

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.

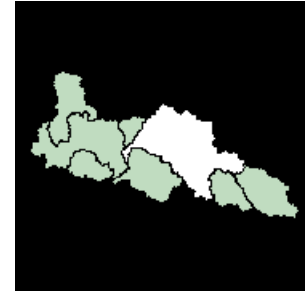
Watershed Restoration Ranking			Watershed Protection Rank	Overall Watershed Rank	Framework Mobilization Category
<i>Observed Impacts</i>	<i>Potential Impacts</i>	<i>Combined Rank</i>			
Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	I

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 148 square miles.
 Provides drinking water for Campton.
 Campton discharges treated sewage into the watershed.
 Aquatic life partially impaired by sedimentation in an unnamed tributary of Swift Camp Creek at Campton (2nd priority TMDL 2002).
 Water supply is an issue.
 USFS identified this watershed as a priority for the Daniel Boone National Forest watershed analysis process and conducted an in-depth analysis to identify restoration projects. One focus is reducing erosion from recreational activities.
 Except for the Powell County section, the watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 291 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the PRIDE part of the watershed.










Red River Region



See the color map of this region on p. 129.

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 