

Red River mouth watershed (051002-04-160)

Geography. The Red River mouth watershed covers north-central Powell County and parts of southeast Clark County and northwest Estill County. The land 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 lies partly above fractured shales through which groundwater can easily move but which stores very little water. Other parts lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones. Unconsolidated silts, sands, and gravels occur along the flood plain of the river and on adjoining upland terraces.

Waterways. This watershed includes the Red River between the junction of the Red River with the Middle Fork Red River (close to Bowen) and where the Red River empties into the Kentucky River at the corners of Estill, Clark, and Madison Counties. Among the creeks that feed the Red River in this section are Cat Creek, Pecks Creek, Hatton Creek, Anderson Branch, Hatcher Creek, Pompeii Branch, Tug Branch, Judy Creek, Beech Fork, Black Creek, Twin Creek, Woodward Creek, and Loglick Creek. Water also flows into the watershed from the Middle & South Forks of Red River, Hardwick Creek, Cane Creek of Red River, Lulbegrud Creek, and Red River Gorge watersheds.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is about 60% rural and wooded and 40% agricultural. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for municipal systems in Clay City and Stanton and for the Beech Fork Water Commission. Eight 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 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>			
Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 96 square miles.

Provides drinking water for the Clay City, Stanton, and the Beech Fork Water Commission.

Part of source water protection zone 3 for the Richmond water system.

Stanton and Clay City discharge treated sewage into the watershed.

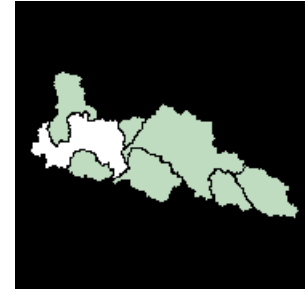
Water supply is an issue.

Thirty miles of Red River that were previously listed as impaired for swimming and aquatic life will be delisted on the basis of newer data.

The Estill County section of the watershed is in the PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 16 straight pipes or failing septic systems in that section.











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 