

Hardwick Creek watershed (051002-04-170)

Geography. The Hardwick Creek watershed occupies south-central Powell County and part of Estill County. The land is in the Knobs physiographic region, which is 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 sections of the watershed lie over easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Interbedded clay shales and siltstones underlie the remaining area.

Waterways. Hardwick Creek empties into the Red River just south of Clay City. Among the creeks that feed Hardwick Creek are Daniel Branch, Branham Branch, Ballard Branch, Little Hardwick Creek, and Frames Branch.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is about 85% rural and wooded and about 15% 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 creek segments in this watershed include one segment of Hardwick Creek that does not support its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Pathogens 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>			
High	Low	High	Low	High	III

Watershed Highlights

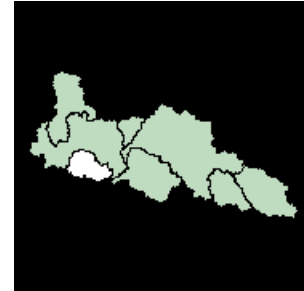
Watershed covers 27 square miles.

Pathogens make contact recreation unsafe in Hardwick Creek from its mouth to Little Hardwick Creek (1st priority TMDL 2002).

The Estill County section of the watershed is in the PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 9 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 