

## **Introduction to Program Management Plans**

The Kentucky Watershed Management Framework provides a dynamic, flexible structure for coordinating watershed management across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is not a new program, simply a new way of coordinating existing programs and building new partnerships that will result in more effective and efficient management of the state's land and water resources. Among the benefits of this approach are:

- Better information for decision making
- Increased ability to resolve complex water resource problems
- Improved coordination among governmental agencies
- More opportunities for citizens to get involved
- Increased ability to demonstrate benefits of environmental management
- More cost-effective use of public and private funds

Coordination of activities takes place on three different levels: state, river basin, and watershed. Efforts at each level are linked together and integrated through communication forums including a statewide steering committee, river basin teams, and local watershed task forces. A statewide basin management schedule facilitates efficient use of available human and financial resources by focusing major watershed management efforts (such as monitoring) on one portion of the state at any given time.

The framework process is explicitly cyclical: watershed data are to be re-analyzed at five-year intervals, and watershed planning is to be extended and improved in each cycle. The framework thereby will connect existing state and local programs in a new geographic focus—the watershed—and eventually promote new and more comprehensive efforts mobilized around watersheds.

This document sets forth priorities for the second cycle of watershed management in the Kentucky River basin (2002-2007). The management plans in this section summarize how agency activities will be coordinated. The fifth year of each cycle is designated for implementation. Although many activities are focused in that year, in reality, the implementation of the diverse activities of framework partners occur throughout the cycle. Participating programs prepared management plans to outline how each program targets its activities to specific locations within the basin and when they will implement each element of the program.

These plans do not constitute a comprehensive, prescriptive plan for management of water and waterways in the basin. Instead they set out the criteria and processes that guide each program to take particular action in particular watersheds or particular points within watersheds. We envision that as the framework's watershed approach is more fully implemented the plans for the basin will become more fully integrated and will provide geographic priorities articulated in greater detail.