

Middle Fork Region

Middle Fork Kentucky River headwaters watershed (051002-02-010)

Geography. The Middle Fork Kentucky River headwaters watershed occupies much of central Leslie County and the northern edge of Harlan County. The land is in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, which is characterized by mountainous terrain, rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of 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.

Waterways. The Middle Fork Kentucky River headwaters watershed includes the Middle Fork up to its confluence with Cutshin Creek at Dryhill (near the Boone Parkway). Among the other creeks that feed the river in this watershed are Greasy Creek, Beech Fork, Stinnett Creek, Rockhouse Creek, and Bull Creek.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is rural and wooded. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for the Green Hills and Hyden Leslie County Water Districts. Nineteen 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. One segment of Greasy Creek is designated as threatened. 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	High	Medium	High	High	III

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 243 square miles.
 Provides drinking water for Hyden.
 Hyden discharges treated sewage into the watershed.
 Hyden is completing plans for sewer regionalization to eliminate five package plants and several straight pipes or failing septic systems.
 Water supply is an issue.
 Greasy Creek is classified as threatened between Laurel Fork and Big Laurel Creek [2000 305(b)].
 DOW and EPA have agreed to delist the segments of the Middle Fork designated as impaired on the 1996 and 1998 303(d) lists. DOW has designated the Middle Fork and Exceptional Water.
 The Greasy Creek subwatershed is a Watershed Watch Citizen Action Plan watershed.
 Watershed is in the PRIDE region. PRIDE identified 322 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.












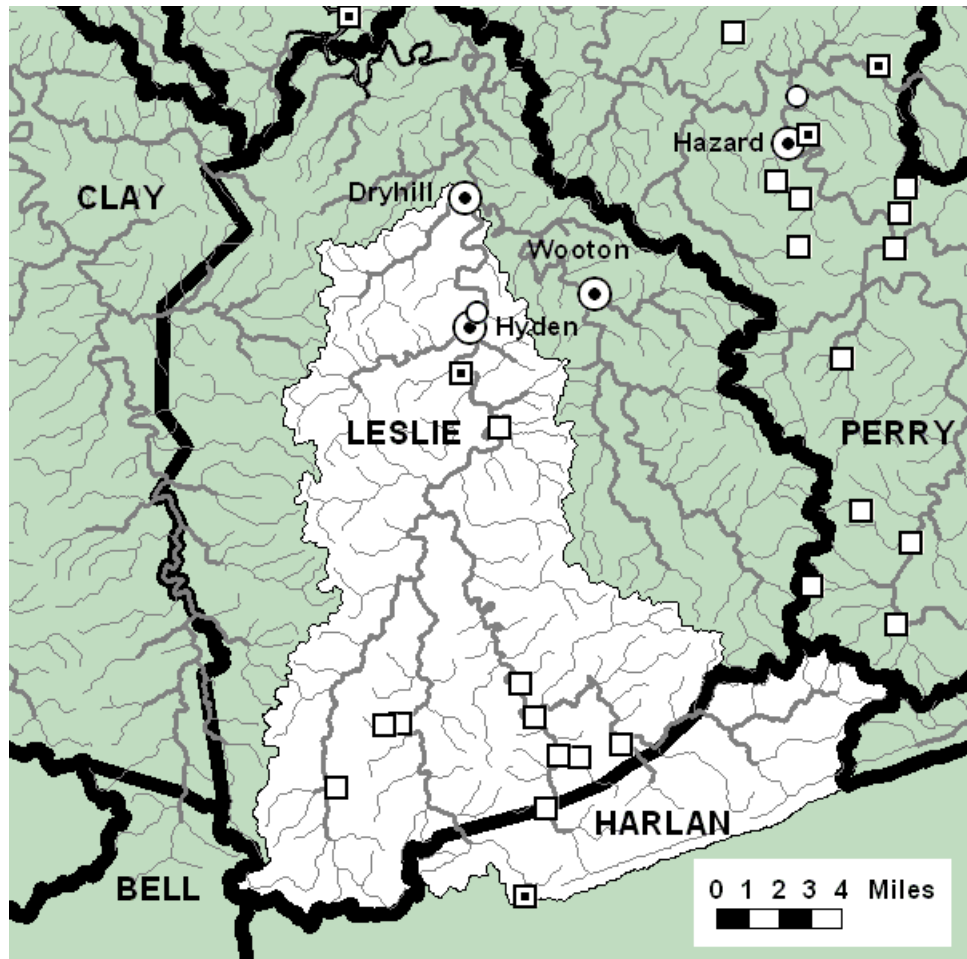
Middle Fork Region



See the color map of this region on p. 123.

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 



Cutshin Creek watershed (051002-02-020)

Geography. The Cutshin Creek watershed covers eastern Leslie County. The land is in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by mountainous terrain, rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of 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.

Waterways. Cutshin Creek empties into the Middle Fork Kentucky River at the town of Dryhill (near the Boone Parkway). Among the creeks that feed it are Polls Creek, Wolf Creek, Raccoon Creek, Wooton Creek, and MacIntosh Creek.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is rural and wooded. Ten 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 (Wooton Creek) that only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Polls Creek is categorized as threatened. See the 2000 Assessment Report or 2000 305(b) list and the 2002 303(d) list of impaired streams for full details.

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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	High	High	Medium	High	II

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 92 square miles.

Local data indicates fecal contamination of Cutshin Creek.

Aquatic life partially impaired by unknown causes in

Wooton Creek between its mouth and second fork (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

Aquatic life is classified as threatened in Polls Creek [2000 305(b)].

The potential for agricultural erosion is substantially higher than the basin average.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 88 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.












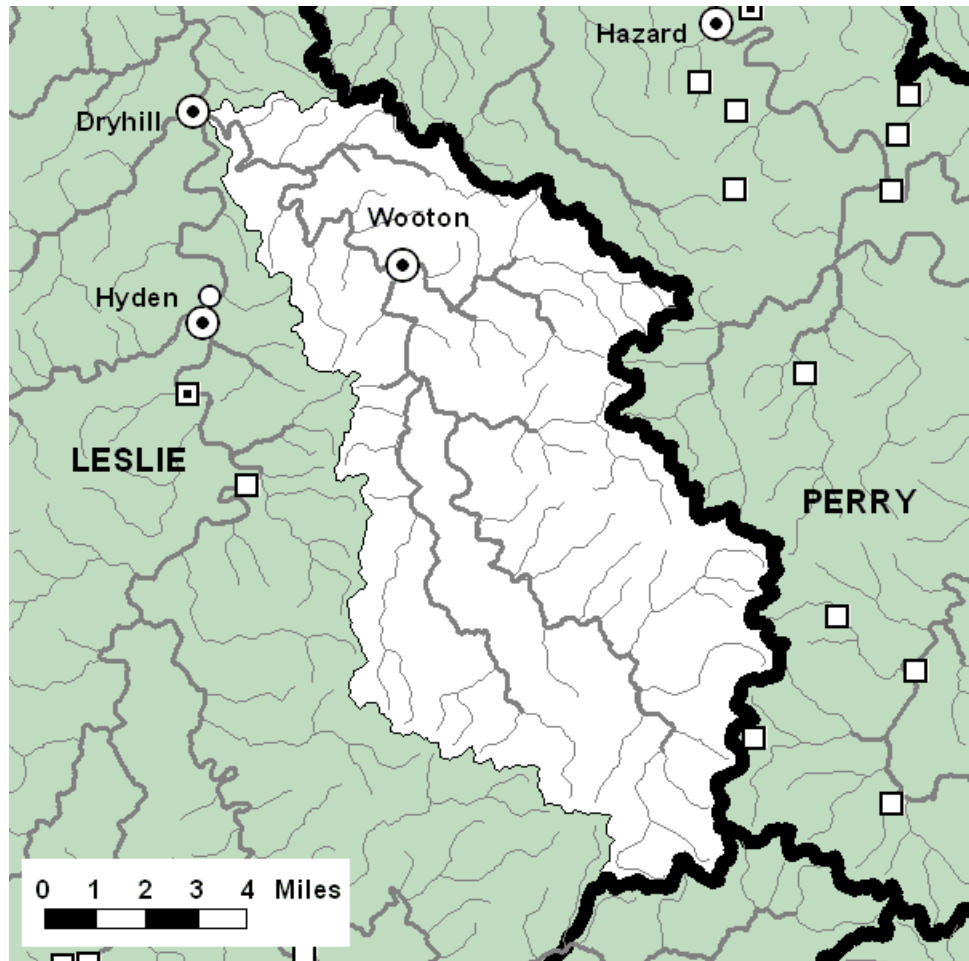
Middle Fork Region



See the color map of this region on p. 123.

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 



Middle Fork Kentucky River watershed near Buckhorn Lake (051002-02-030)

Geography. The Middle Fork Kentucky River watershed near Buckhorn Lake covers northern Leslie County and northwestern Perry County. The land is in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by mountainous terrain, rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of 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.

Waterways. This watershed includes the section of the Middle Fork between Cutshin Creek and Buckhorn, including Buckhorn Lake. Among the creeks that feed it are Hell for Certain Creek, Grassy Branch, Elkhorn Creek, Rush Creek, Leatherwood Creek, Otter Creek, and Gays Creek. Water from the Middle Fork Kentucky River headwaters watershed and the Cutshin Creek watershed also flows into this watershed.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is rural and wooded. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for Buckhorn Lake State Park. The park holds two permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The three assessed segments in this watershed include one, Buckhorn Lake, that only partially supports its 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.

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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	Medium	High	High	High	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 73 square miles.
Provides drinking water for Buckhorn Lake State Park.
Buckhorn Lake only partially supports secondary contact recreation [such as boating; 1996 303(d)].
Aquatic life in Buckhorn Lake is partially impaired by overenrichment [2000 305(b)].
Watershed is in PRIDE service region.












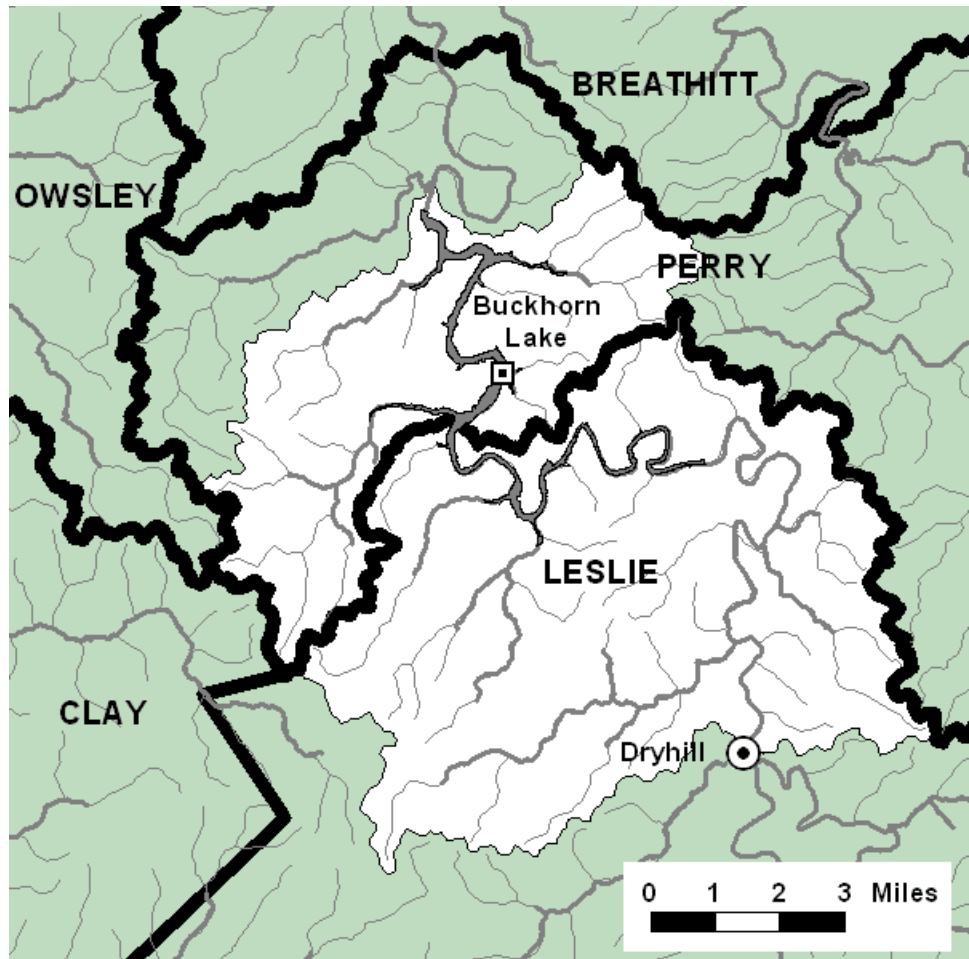
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Middle Fork Kentucky River mouth watershed (051002-02-040)

Geography. The Middle Fork Kentucky River mouth watershed extends from northwest Perry County across western Breathitt County into southeastern Lee County. The southern part of the watershed is in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by mountainous terrain, rapid rates of surface runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The northern part of the watershed is in the plateau area of the coal field region, characterized by rolling terrain, medium to rapid rates of 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. Unconsolidated silts, sands, and gravels occur along the flood plain of the river in Lee County.

Waterways. This watershed includes the section of the Middle Fork between Buckhorn Lake and the confluence with the North Fork east of Beattyville. Among the creeks that feed it are Squabble Creek, Puncheon Camp Creek, Upper Twin Creek, and Long Shoal Branch. Water from the Freeman Fork and Middle Fork Kentucky River near Buckhorn Lake watersheds also flows into this watershed.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is rural and wooded, with less than 10% agricultural use. Four 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 (Upper Twin Creek) that only partially supports its 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.

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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	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 136 square miles.

Part of source water protection zones 1, 2, and 3 for the Beattyville water system.

Aquatic life partially impaired by unknown causes in Upper Twin Creek from its mouth to Keen Fork (2nd priority TMDL 2002).

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 35 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.



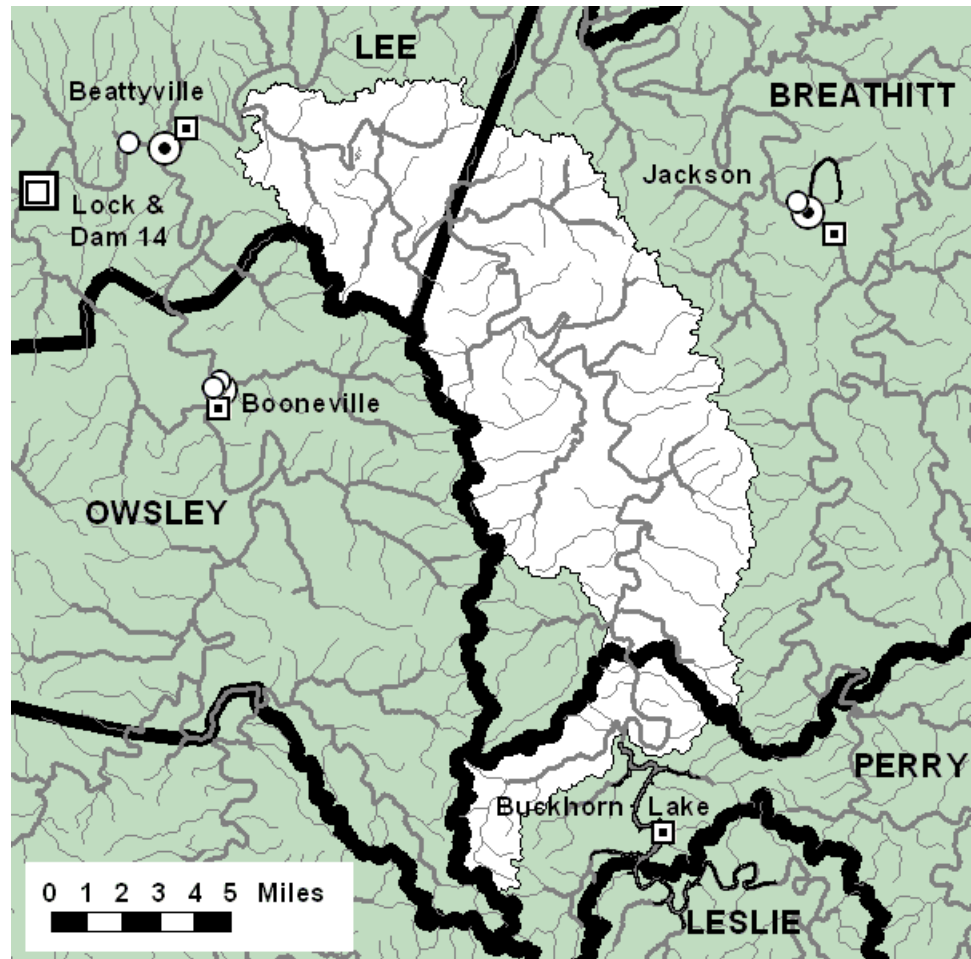
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- Cities and towns
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- County borders



Freeman Fork watershed (051002-02-050)

Geography. The Freeman Fork watershed occupies the far southwest corner of Breathitt County. The land is in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by mountainous terrain, rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of 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.

Waterways. Freeman Fork empties into the Middle Fork Kentucky River south of Crocketsville. Among the creeks that feed it are Miller Branch, Long Fork, Burton Fork, and Terry Branch.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is rural and wooded. 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 segment in this watershed fully supports its 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.

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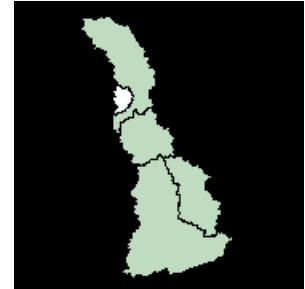
Watershed Restoration Ranking			Watershed Protection Rank	Overall Watershed Rank	Framework Mobilization Category
<i>Observed Impacts</i>	<i>Potential Impacts</i>	<i>Combined Rank</i>			
Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	IV

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 15 square miles.
Watershed is in PRIDE service region.











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LEGEND

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- Sewage plants

- Public water supplies

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- Locks & dams

- Cities and towns

- Rivers and larger streams

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- County borders
