

Mid-Kentucky River Region

Kentucky River watershed above Heidelberg (051002-04-010)

Geography. The Kentucky River watershed above Heidelberg occupies central Lee County. The land is in the escarpment area of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by hilly terrain, very 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 Kentucky River from Beattyville west to the mouth of Sturgeon Creek at Heidelberg. Among the creeks that feed it are Contrary Creek and Mikes Branch. Water from the North Fork Kentucky River mouth and South Fork Kentucky River mouth watersheds also flows into this watershed.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; about 10% is agricultural. The Beattyville sewage treatment plant holds a permit for discharges into the creek. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. The assessed creek segments in this watershed fully support all of 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 | Low | Medium | High | Medium | IV |

Watershed Highlights

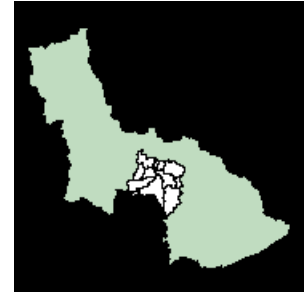
Watershed covers 18 square miles.

Beattyville discharges treated sewage into the watershed.

Groundwater is substantially more sensitive than the basin average.

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

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 4 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.












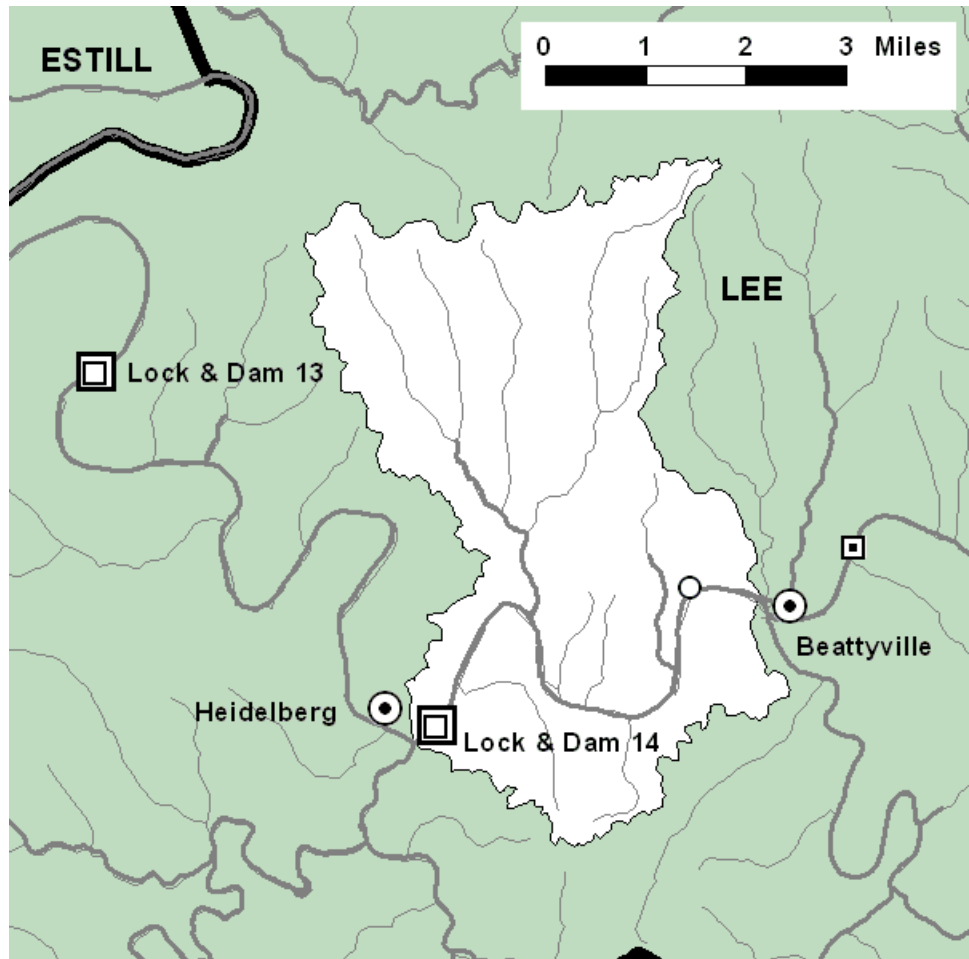
Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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 



Sturgeon Creek watershed (051002-04-020)

Geography. The Sturgeon Creek watershed covers portions of eastern Jackson County, western Owsley County, and southern Lee 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 easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow.

Waterways. Sturgeon Creek empties into the Kentucky River at Heidelberg. Among the creeks that feed it are Herd Fork, Brushy Creek, Wild Dog Creek, Granny Dismal Creek, Upper Sinking Creek, Grassy Fork, Rowlette Branch, Little Sturgeon Creek, Elk Lick, and Duck Branch.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is three-fourths rural and wooded and about 20% 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 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 | Low | Medium | High | Medium | IV |

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 111 square miles.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 46 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.












Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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 



Kentucky River watershed above Ravenna (051002-04-030)

Geography. The Kentucky River watershed above Ravenna straddles the southern end of the boundary between Lee County and Estill County. The land is in the escarpment area of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, which is characterized by hilly terrain, very 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. Parts of the watershed lie over easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones.

Waterways. This watershed includes the Kentucky River between Sturgeon Creek (Heidelberg) and Station Camp Creek (Irvine). Among the creeks that feed it are Cave Branch, Willow Branch, Ross Creek, Wolf Pen Branch, Buck Lick Branch, Buck Creek, and Big Doe Creek. Water from the Millers Creek, Sturgeon Creek, Cow Creek, and Kentucky River above Heidelberg watersheds also flow into this watershed.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; about 10% is agricultural. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for the municipal system in Irvine. Two businesses hold permits for discharges into the creeks. See the 2000 Assessment Report for full details.

Agency data assessment. 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.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Observed Impacts</i> | <i>Potential Impacts</i> | <i>Combined Rank</i> | | | |
| Low | Low | Low | High | Medium | IV |

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 60 square miles.

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

Groundwater is substantially more sensitive than the basin average.

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

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



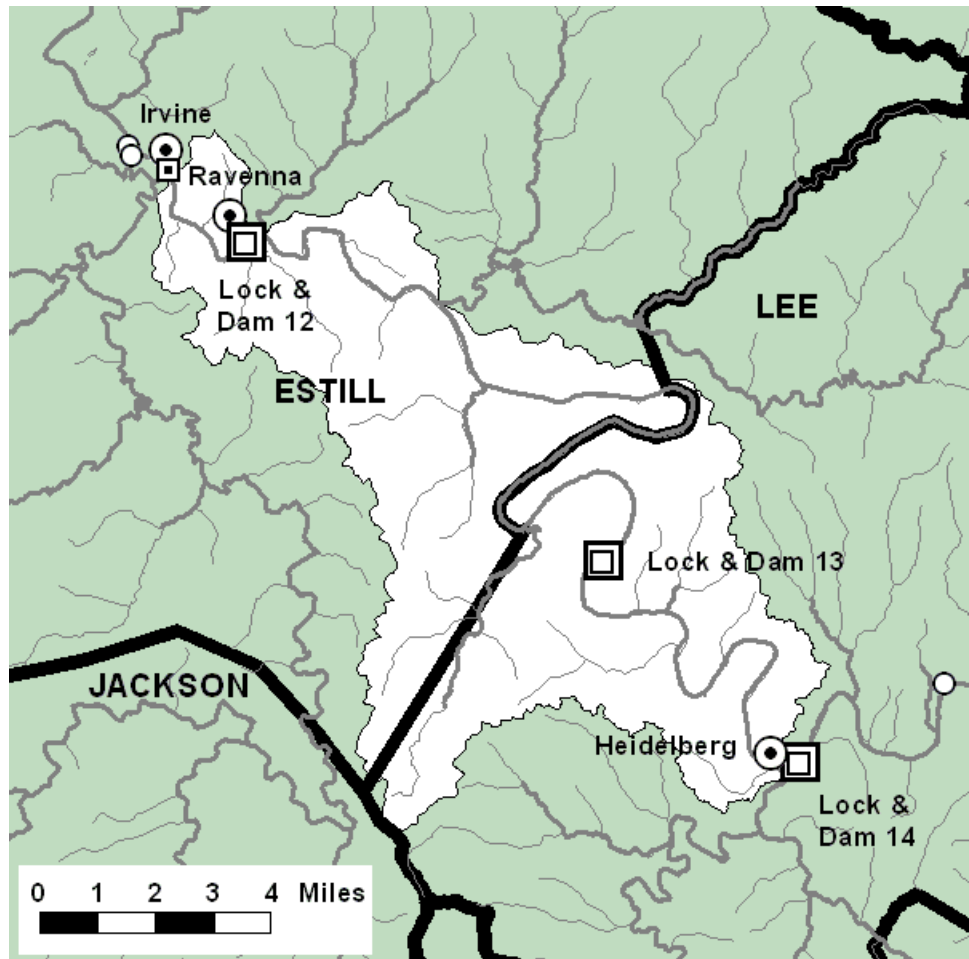
Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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



Millers Creek watershed (051002-04-040)

Geography. The Millers Creek watershed occupies the eastern tip of Estill County and northern corner of Lee County. The land is in the escarpment area of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field physiographic region, which is characterized by hilly terrain, very 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. Some of the watershed lies over sandstone aquifers and some over easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones.

Waterways. Millers Creek empties into the Kentucky River between Pryse and the town of Millers Creek. Among the creeks that feed it are Cave Fork, Zachariah Fork, Little Sinking Creek, Billey Fork, Woodward Creek, Furnace Fork, and Sudders Fork.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is more than 80% rural and wooded, about 15% industrial, and about 3% agricultural. Three 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.

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| <i>Observed Impacts</i> | <i>Potential Impacts</i> | <i>Combined Rank</i> | | | |
| Medium | Medium | Medium | High | Medium | IV |

Watershed Highlights

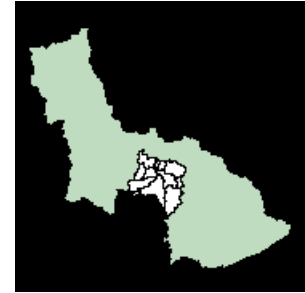
Watershed covers 75 square miles.

Part of source water protection zones 2 and 3 for the Irvine water system.

Groundwater is substantially more sensitive than the basin average.

This is a Watershed Watch Citizen Action Plan watershed.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 23 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.



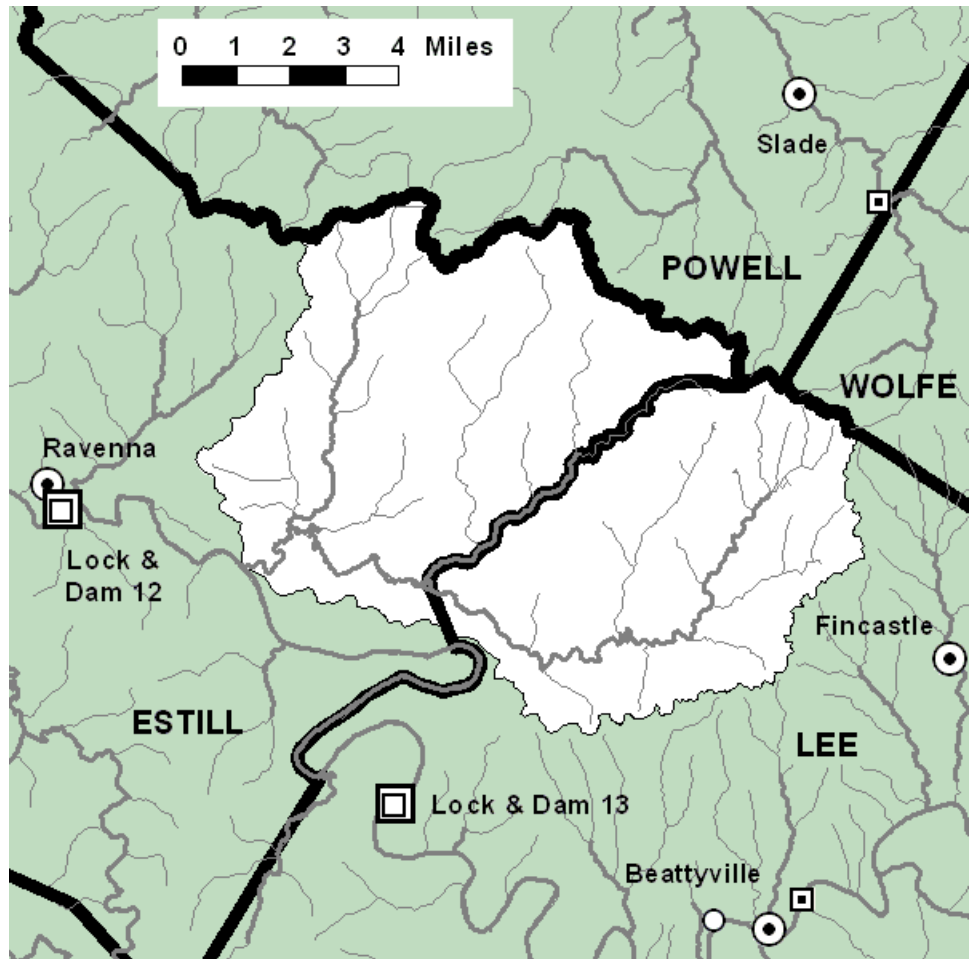
Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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 



Station Camp Creek watershed (051002-04-050)

Geography. The Station Camp Creek watershed includes much of the northern section of Jackson County and part of southeastern Estill County, as well as slivers of Rockcastle and Lee counties. The higher, southern section of the watershed is in the escarpment area of the Eastern Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by hilly terrain, very rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The lower, northern section of the watershed 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 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. Some of the watershed lies over sandstone aquifers and some over easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones.

Waterways. Station Camp Creek empties into the Kentucky River at Irvine. Among the creeks that feed it are Clear Creek, Hoys Fork, Crooked Creek, Hinton Branch, South Fork Station Camp Creek, War Creek, War Fork, and Cavanaugh Creek.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is more than 80% rural and wooded and 15% agricultural. Six 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 that only partially supports its designated uses, based on biological and/or water-quality data. Siltation 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.

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.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Observed Impacts</i> | <i>Potential Impacts</i> | <i>Combined Rank</i> | | | |
| Low | Medium | Low | High | Medium | IV |

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 147 square miles.

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

Groundwater is substantially more sensitive than the basin average.

Station Camp Creek is partially impaired by sedimentation from its mouth to the confluence with Red Lick Creek.

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 326 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.



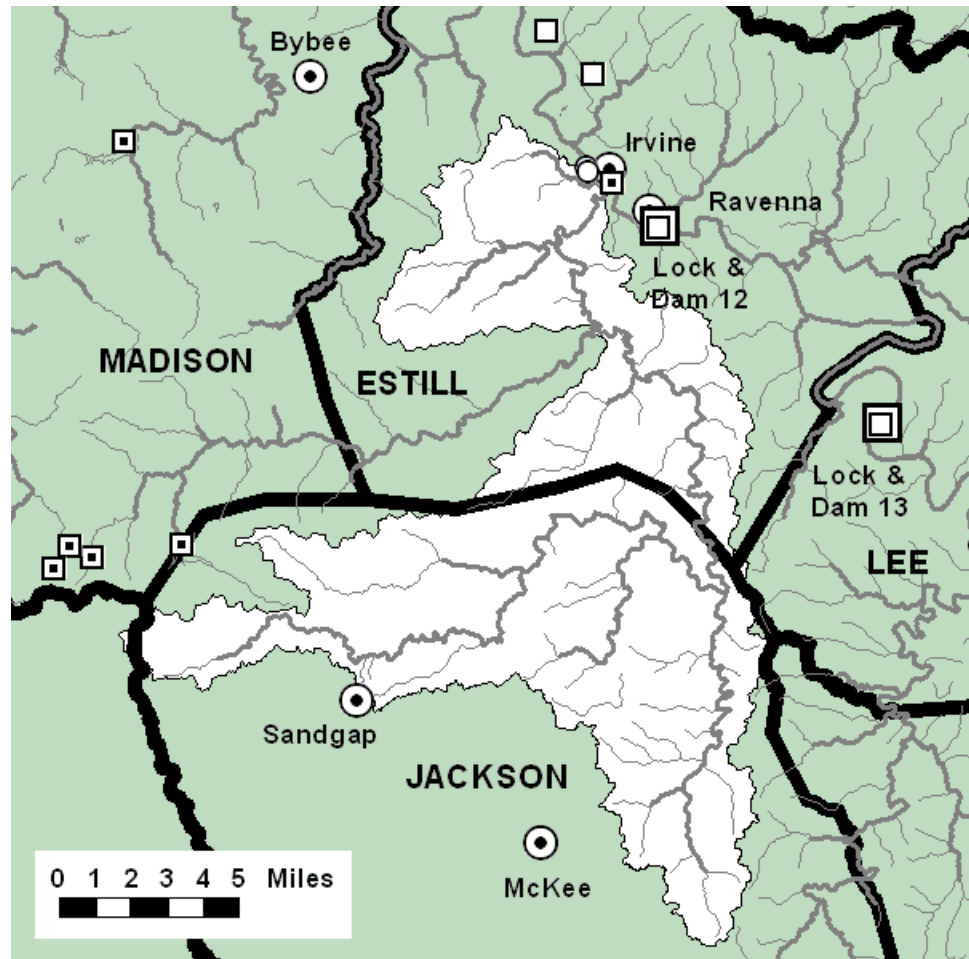
Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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



Cow Creek watershed (051002-04-060)

Geography. The Cow Creek watershed is located in north-central Estill County. Most of the watershed is in the escarpment area of the Eastern Coal Field physiographic region, which is characterized by hilly terrain, very rapid surface runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The lowest, southern section of the watershed 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 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 easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones.

Waterways. Cow Creek empties into the Kentucky River at Ravenna. Among the creeks that feed it are Rogers Fork, Tickey Fork, and Campbell Creek.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; about 5% is agricultural. 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 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.

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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> | | | |
| Low | Low | Low | Medium | Low | IV |

Watershed Highlights

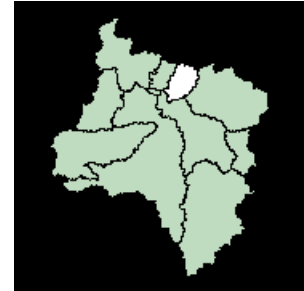
Watershed covers 17 square miles.

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

Watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 3 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the watershed.




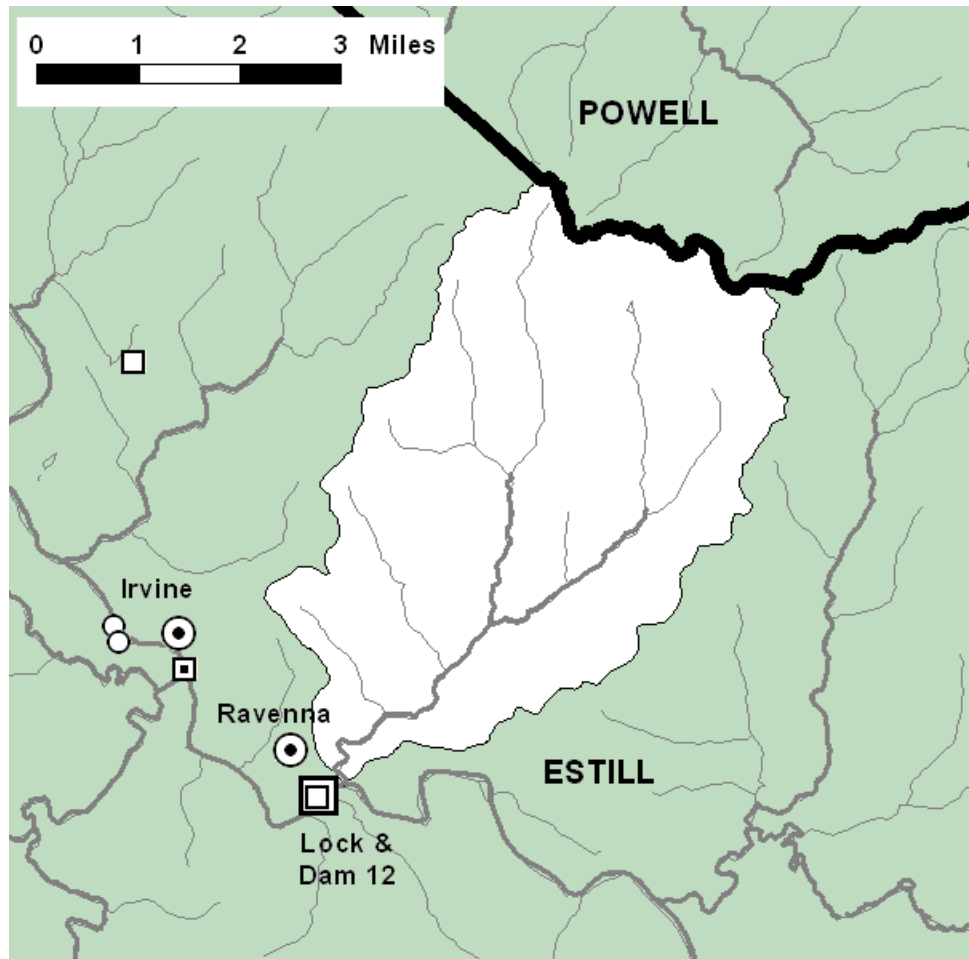
Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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 



Red Lick Creek watershed (051002-04-070)

Geography. The Red Lick Creek watershed covers the southwest corner of Estill County, the southeast corner of Madison County, and the northwest corner of Jackson County. The part of the watershed south of Red Lick Creek is in the escarpment area of the Eastern Coal Field physiographic region, characterized by hilly terrain, very rapid surface water runoff, and moderate rates of groundwater drainage. The part of the watershed north of the creek 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 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 easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones. Other parts of the watershed lie above interbedded clay shales and siltstones.

Waterways. Red Lick Creek empties into Station Camp Creek south of Ravenna and just northwest of Wagersville. Among the creeks that feed it are Owsley Fork, Joe Lick Fork, Cowbell Creek, Gravel Lick Branch, Stillhouse Branch, Floyd Branch, Shirley Branch, Long Branch, Horns River, and Henderson Branch.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is mainly rural and wooded; about 20% is agricultural. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for Berea College's water system. 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 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.

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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> | | | |
| Low | Medium | Low | Medium | Low | IV |

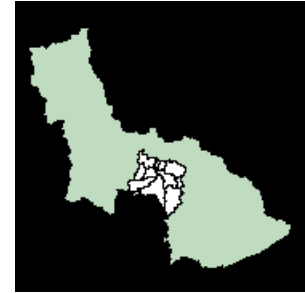
Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 70 square miles.

Provides some of the water for the Berea College water system.

Part of source water protection zones 2 and 3 for the Irvine water system.

Except for the Madison County section, the watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 66 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the PRIDE part of the watershed.












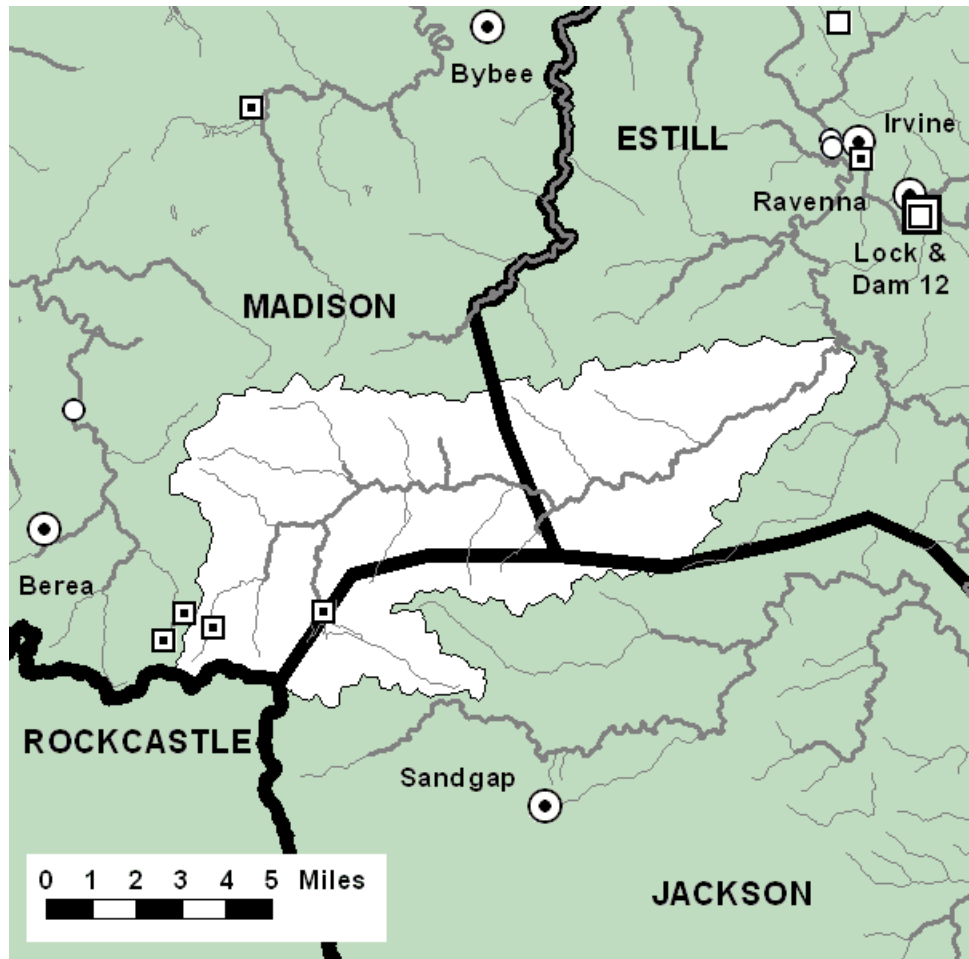
Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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 



Kentucky River watershed above Red River (051002-04-080)

Geography. The Kentucky River watershed above Red River covers parts of western Estill County and eastern Madison 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 of the watershed lie over easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow.

Waterways. This watershed includes the section of the Kentucky River between Station Camp Creek (Irvine) and the Red River (Clark County-Estell County line). Among the creeks that feed it are Calloway Creek, Possum Run, Blue Run, Falling Branch, Flint Creek, and Noland Creek. Water from the Station Camp Creek, Kentucky River above Ravenna, White Oak Creek, and Drowning Creek watersheds also flows into this watershed.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is about half agricultural and half rural and wooded; commercial and residential areas make up about 3%. The surface waters of the watershed supply the drinking water for municipal systems in Irvine and Richmond. Six 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.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Observed Impacts</i> | <i>Potential Impacts</i> | <i>Combined Rank</i> | | | |
| Medium | High | Medium | High | Medium | IV |

Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 52 square miles.

Provides drinking water for Irvine and Richmond.

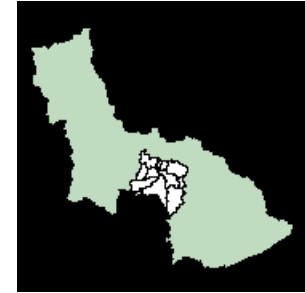
Part of source water protection zone 3 for the Winchester water system.

Irvine and the Estill County Water District discharge treated sewage into the watershed. Recent efforts to regionalize sewer service did not succeed.

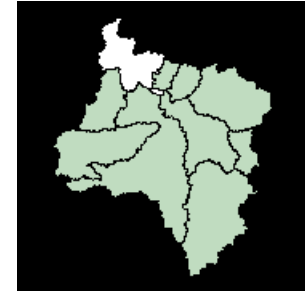
Water supply is an issue.

Because the latest assessment indicates full support for swimming, DOW has asked EPA to delist a segment of the Kentucky River that was previously listed as partially impaired by pathogens.

Except for the Madison County section, the watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 5 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the PRIDE part of the watershed.












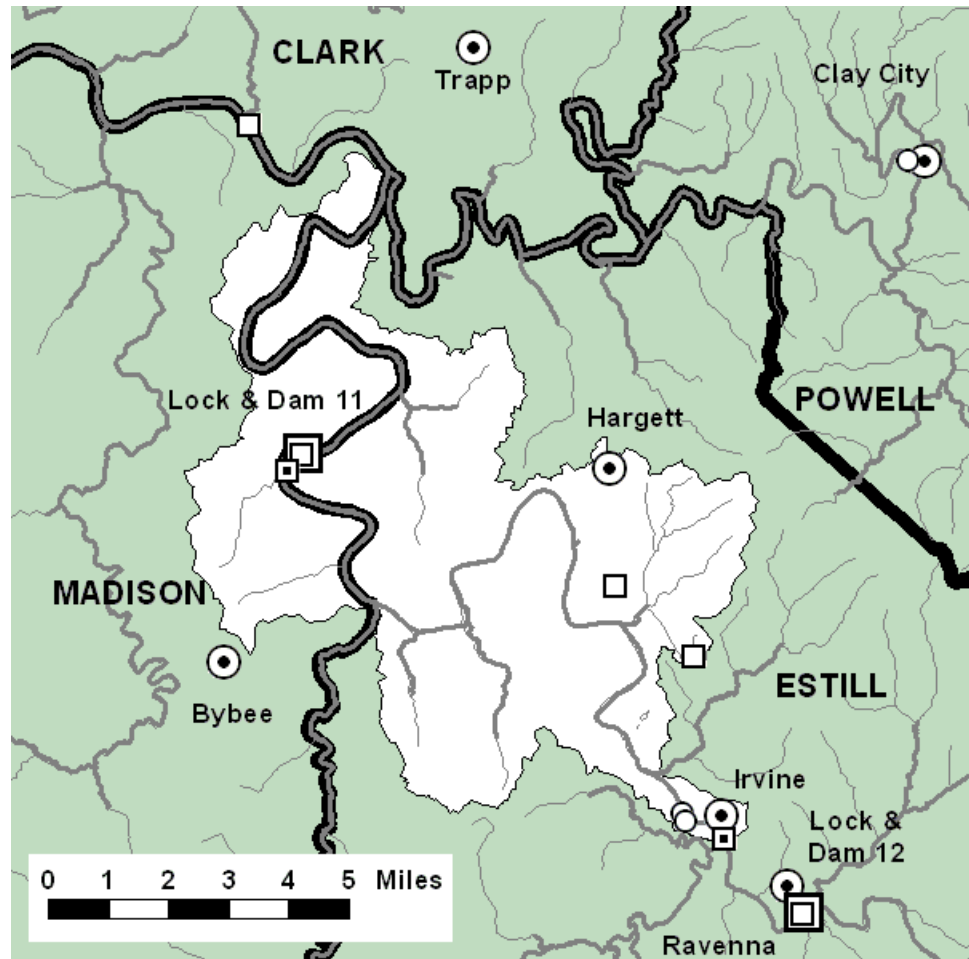
Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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 



White Oak Creek watershed (051002-04-090)

Geography. The White Oak Creek watershed is in north-central 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 sections of the watershed lie over easily weathered clay shales that store water but allow little groundwater flow. Interbedded clay shales and siltstones make up the remainder of the area.

Waterways. White Oak Creek empties into the Kentucky River northwest of Irvine. Among the creeks that feed it are Sweet Lick Branch, Masters Creek, and Dry Branch.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is about 70% rural and wooded and about 25% agricultural. Three 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.

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| <i>Observed Impacts</i> | <i>Potential Impacts</i> | <i>Combined Rank</i> | | | |
| Low | Low | Low | Medium | Low | IV |

Watershed Highlights

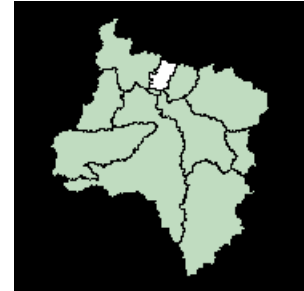
Watershed covers 11 square miles.

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

Watershed is in PRIDE service region.



Mid-Kentucky River




See the color map of this region on p. 127.


LEGEND

- Area of this watershed

- Sewage plants

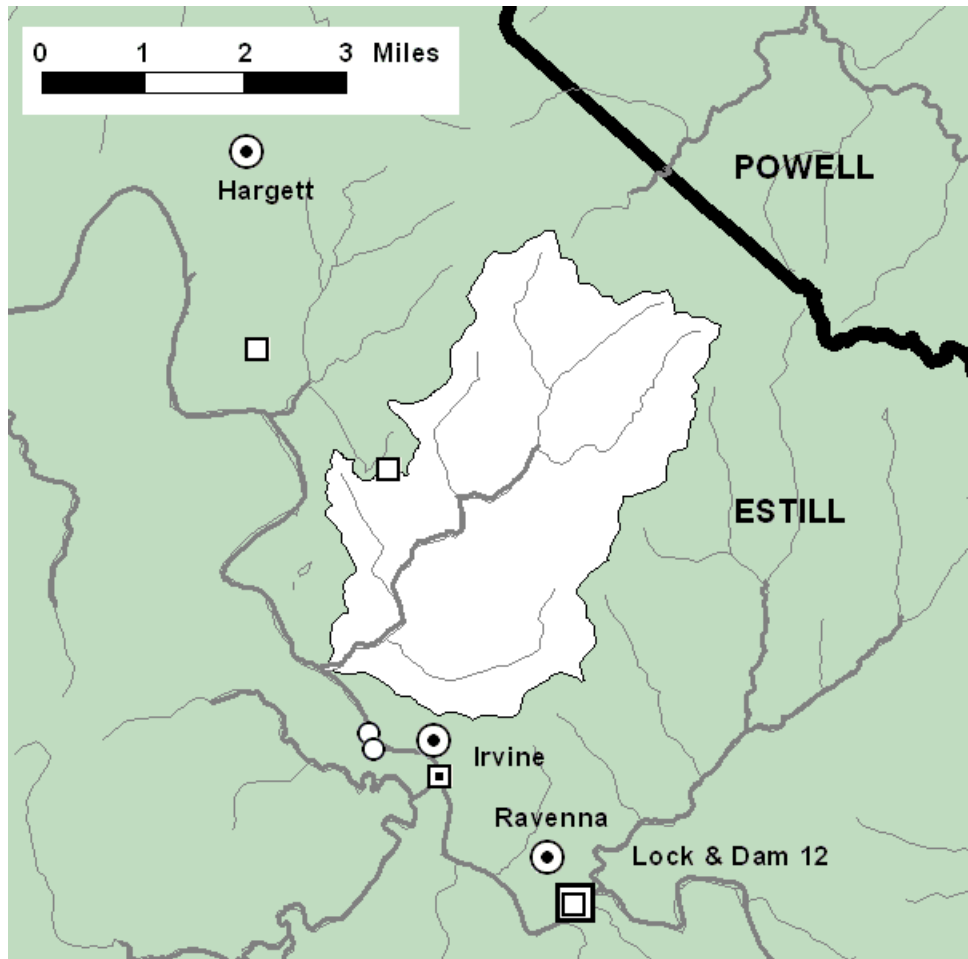
- Public water supplies

- Other water withdrawals

- Locks & dams

- Cities and towns

- Rivers and larger streams

- Smaller streams

- County borders

Drowning Creek watershed (051002-04-100)

Geography. The Drowning Creek watershed lies along the boundary between Madison and Estill Counties. 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, both 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. The rest of the watershed lies over interbedded shales and limestones (these are 20% limestone; water conduction is poor because of the clay content of the shale).

Waterways. Drowning Creek empties into the Kentucky River northeast of Bybee. Among the creeks that feed it are Knob Lick Branch, Oldham Branch, Butler Branch, and Black Branch.

Land and water use. Land in the watershed is about 55% agricultural and more than 40% rural and wooded. Two 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> | | | |
| Low | Medium | Low | Low | Low | IV |

Watershed Highlights

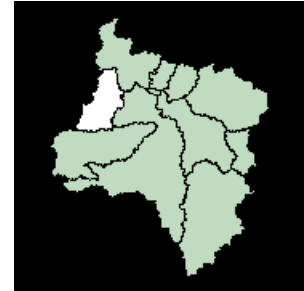
Watershed covers 37 square miles.

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

Except for the Madison County section, the watershed is in PRIDE service region. PRIDE identified 6 straight pipes or failing septic systems in the PRIDE part of the watershed.



Mid-Kentucky River



See the color map of this region on p. 127.

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

