Frozen Creek watershed (051002-01-170)

**Geography.** The Frozen Creek watershed lies along the northern edge 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.** Frozen Creek empties into the North Fork Kentucky River north of Jackson. Among the creeks that feed it are Cope Fork and Clear Fork.

**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 segments in this watershed include one (Cope Fork) 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.

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Watershed Highlights

Watershed covers 40 square miles. Aquatic life partially impaired by sedimentation and habitat alteration in Cope Fork between its mouth and Cockrill Creek (2nd priority TMDL 2002). Watershed Watch focused sampling showed high fecal coliform readings in the watershed. Watershed is in PRIDE service region.

See the color map of this region on p. 121.