# Appendix A - Kentucky Wild Rivers Program

Kentucky is preserving the unique scenic, fish and wildlife, botanical, geological, cultural and recreational values of its most pristine rivers through a program established by the Wild Rivers Act of 1972. The Division of Water, within the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, is responsible for administering the Wild Rivers Program.

Portions of nine rivers of exceptional quality and aesthetic character have been designated as Kentucky Wild Rivers. Each Wild River is actually a linear corridor encompassing all visible land on each side of the river up to a distance of 2,000 feet. The nine Wild River corridors comprise a total of 114 river miles and 26,382 acres.

Cumberland River

Scott Hankla

**Table 28. Designated Kentucky Wild Rivers**

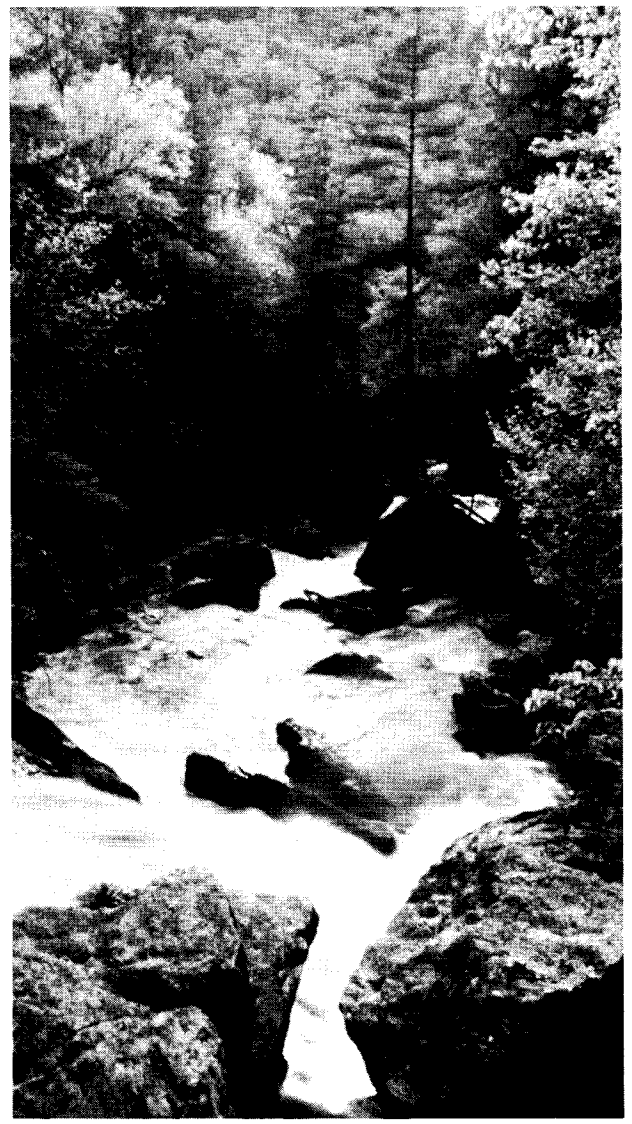
| Stream and Date Designated | County | Length (Miles) | Endpoints (River Miles) | Corridor Acreage | Drainage Basin |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bad Branch 1986 | Letcher | 4.0 | Entire basin | 1,325 | Cumberland River |
| Big South Fork 1972 | McCreary | 10.2 | 45.0 - 55.2 | 2,450 | Cumberland River |
| Cumberland River 1972 | McCreary/ Whitley | 16.1 | 558.5 - 574.6 | 3,300 | Cumberland River |
| Green River 1972 | Edmonson/ Hart | 36.0 | 181.7 - 207.7 | 6,500 | Green River |
| Little South Fork 1974 | McCreary/ Wayne | 10.4 | 4.1 - 14.5 | 1,400 | Cumberland River |
| Martin's Fork 1974 | Harlan | 3.9 | 27.4 - 31.3 | 680 | Cumberland River |
| Red River 1972 | Menifee/Wolfe | 9.1 | 59.5 - 68.6 | 1,025 | Kentucky River |
| Rock Creek 1974 | McCreary | 18.0 | 3.9 - 21.9 | 6,150 | Cumberland River |
| Rockcastle River 1972 | Laurel/Pulaski/ Rockcastle | 15.9 | 8.5 - 24.4 | 3,550 | Cumberland River |

# Appendix B - Outstanding Resource Waters

In addition to its Wild Rivers, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has designated 57 other waterbodies as Outstanding Water Resources (ORW) with habitats that range in size from 1st order watersheds to segments of large rivers such as the Ohio River. These waterbodies support federally threatened and endangered species or contain habitats that support diverse and unique aquatic flora and fauna. These waterbodies may receive industrial and/or municipal discharges that are permitted by the Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KDPES), but the permittee has to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department for Environmental Protection that the lowering of water quality or a habitat modification will not have a harmful effect on the protected species. Special conditions are provided in the KPDES permit to monitor the biological community and physicochemical properties of the waterbody to ascertain if more stringent or additional criteria are necessary for protection of the species or habitat. The Division of Water upgrades the special conditions of the KPDES permit when information is available to justify additional criteria.

Some of the outstanding resource waters are experiencing water quality problems through human-caused disturbances, such as coal mining operations, wastewater treatment facility discharges, and agricultural and silvicultural practices.

Bad Branch



James Archambeault

Currently, the Division of Water is requiring biological and physicochemical monitoring for seven coal-related operations and one municipal wastewater treatment plant. All facilities that discharge to an outstanding resource water are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

**Table 29. Threatened Or Endangered Aquatic Species In Designated Outstanding Resource Waters**

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|---|---|
| Cyprogenia stegaria | Fanshell |
| Epioblasma obliquata obliquata | Mussel white cat's paw |
| Lampsilis abrupta | Pink mucket pearly mussel |
| Obovaria retusa | Ring pink mussel |
| Palaemonias ganteri | Kentucky cave shrimp |
| Pegias fabula | Little wing pearly mussel |
| Phoxinus cumberlandensis | Cumberland blackside dace |
| Plethobasus cooperianus | Orange-footed pimple back pearly mussel |
| Pleurobema plenum | Rough pigtoe mussel |
| Potamilus capax | Fat pocketbook mussel |
| Villosa trabalis | Cumberland bean pearly mussel |

**Table 30. Outstanding Resource Water Documentation For Segments Supporting Threatened And Endangered Species**

| Stream/Segement | Length (River Miles) | Species | Collection |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adams Branch | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1991[14] |
| Archers Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Barren River | 15.0 to 0.0 | Pleurobema plenum | 1987[7] |
| | | Cyprogenia stegaria | 1989[7] |
| Beaver Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5], 1988[9] |
| Big Lick Branch | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Breeden's Creek | Basin | Phoxmus cumberlandandensis | 1990[4] |
| Brownies Creek | Basin to River Mile 8.7 | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Buck Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Buck Creek | 53.3 to 10.5 | Villosa trabalis | 1981[1], 1985[8] |
| Bucks Branch | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Buffalo Creek | Basin to KY-TENN stateline | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Bunches Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Caney Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Collier's Creek | Basin | Phoximu cumberlandensis | 1990[14] |
| Ohio River | Towhead Island East Channel 922.0 to 923.5 | Potamilus capax | 1988[4c] |
| Davis Branch | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Dogslaughter Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Eagle Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Green River | 168.0 to 148.0 | Pleurobena plenum, Epioblasma obliquata obliquata | 1989[7] |

| Stream/Segement | Length (River Miles) | Species | Collection |
|---|---|---|---|
| Green River | 230.0 to 207.8 | Cyprogenia stegaria | 1989[7] |
| Horselick Creek | 12.3 to mouth | Villosa trabalis | 1984[2] |
| Kennedy Creek | 1.0 to mouth | Villosa trabalis | 1981[1] |
| Laurel Creek | Basin (Whitley County) | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1988[9] |
| Laurel Fork | Basin (Jackson County) | Villosa trabalis | 1991[7] |
| Little Clear Creek | Basin to confluence with Fuson Branch | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Licking River | 65.0 to 18.9 | Cyprogenia stegaria | 1989[7] |
| Little Yellow Creek | Fern Lake Dam to Yellow Creek | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1981[13] |
| Long Branch Middle Fork | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5], 1988[9] |
| Rockcastle River | 61.1 to 53.3 | Villosa trabalis | 1979, 1983[6], 1985[8] |
| Mill Creek | Basin (Bell County) | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Mill Creek | Basin (McCreary County) | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1988[9] |
| Ohio River | 940.7 to 934.3 | Plethobasus cooperianus | 1982[10] |
| | | Lampsilis abrupta | 1984[13] |
| Ohio River | 966.3 to 969.5 | Plethobasus cooperianus | 1982[10] |
| Poor Fork Cumberland River | Basin above River Mile 742.7 | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |

| Stream/Segement | Length (River Miles) | Species | Collection |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rock Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1988[9] |
| Rockcastle River | 53.3 to 24.4 | Villosa trabalis | 1985[4b] |
| Ross Branch | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Roundstone Creek | 14.0 to 4.7 | Villosa trabalis | 1985[5] |
| Sanders Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1988[9] |
| Shut-in Branch | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1988[9] |
| Sims Fork | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Straight Creek | Basin from River Mile 11.3 to Source | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Tennessee River | 22.4 - 12.5 | Lampsilis abrupta | 1985[4a] |
| | | Plethobasus cooperianus | 1987[4b] |
| | | Obovaria retusa | 1987[4b] |
| Trammel Fork | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |
| Underground River | Mammoth Cave | | |
| System in | Park boundary | Palaemonias ganteri | 1983[3] |
| Green River | Turnhole Spring Basin | Palaemonias ganteri | 1983[3] |
| basin | Echo River Basin | Palaemoneas ganteri | 1983[3] |
| | Pike Spring Basin | Palaemonias ganteri | 1983[3] |
| | Mile 205.7 Spring Basin | Palaemonias ganteri | 1983[3] |
| | McCoy Spring Basin | Palaemonias ganteri | 1983[3] |
| | Suds Spring Basin | Palaemonias ganteri | 1983[3] |
| Whippoorwill Creek | Basin | Pegias fubula | 1988[7] |
| Youngs Creek | Basin | Phoxinus cumberlandensis | 1985[5] |

## Footnotes

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