

Lower Ohio River

The Tug Fork River watershed includes portions of West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia. The river flows from its source in McDowell County to join the Levisa Fork River, in the town of Fort Gay. The heavily forested area drained by the Tug Fork River totals approximately 1,500 square miles in all three states is

Steep-sided hills and heavily forested mountains with numerous rock cliffs make this watershed one of the most rugged in West Virginia.

Fast facts:

Drainage area in West Virginia: 934 square miles

Length: 159 miles

Name origin. During the winter of 1756, a company of colonial soldiers boiled and ate strips of buffalo hides - tugs - to avoid starvation. The river became known as the Tug Fork.



The Big Sandy River is formed by the confluence of Tug Fork and Levisa Fork Rivers. The Big Sandy empties into the Ohio River near Huntington.

Fast facts:

Drainage area in West Virginia: 75 square miles

Length : 29 miles

The Big Sandy River is navigable and carries commercial shipping, primarily the coal that is mined in the region.

Name origin. The river of sandbars.

The Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers form the boundary line between Kentucky and West Virginia.

Guyandotte River Watershed

The Guyandotte River Watershed originates at the confluence of Winding Gulf, Devil's Creek, and Stonecoal Creek in Raleigh County. The River empties into the Ohio River near Huntington.

Fast facts:

Drainage area: 1,688 square miles

Length: 167 miles

Inset graphics or text:

Many communities in the watershed originally existed as coal camps and were built in the early 1900's.