Green/Tradewater River Basin in Kentucky

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The Tradewater River Basin is a 1,101-square-mile area in northern Kentucky that includes a portion of Green River and Calhoun Counties and the eastern part of Christian County. The basin begins in the eastern part of Christian County in western Kentucky and flows north 135 miles down the Tradewater River to its confluence with the Ohio River east of Henderson at an elevation of 342 feet. From an elevation of 710 feet on a hillside in Christian County, water flows north 135 miles down the Tradewater River to its confluence with the Ohio River.

The Pennyroyal Region of the basin is an area of intense karst, characterized by sinkholes and underground flow systems. These areas are important because they are the primary source of water for many Kentucky communities that rely on karst aquifers to supply their drinking water needs. However, karst aquifers are vulnerable to contamination from surface runoff, which can enter the underground water systems through sinkholes and other openings in the rock.

To protect Kentucky’s karst aquifers from nonpoint-source pollution, the Kentucky Geological Survey has developed a set of guidelines for managing karst areas. These guidelines include best management practices for agriculture, forestry, and construction activities, as well as recommendations for public education and awareness programs. The guidelines aim to reduce the impact of nonpoint-source pollution on karst aquifers and improve water quality in these areas.

For more information, visit the Kentucky Geological Survey website at www.uky.edu/kgs/water/library/kywater.org/watch/tg.htm. Resources: kygeonet.ky.gov/kdfwr/