

Lower Sipsey Fork Watershed (HUC # 0316011002)
Bankhead NF

Category	Watershed Existing Condition
Water quality – Watershed Wide (Water use designation established by State of Alabama)	Free flowing streams suitable for fish and wildlife uses, lake suitable for swimming. No impaired segments.
Water quality – NF lands only	Fish & Wildlife use designation on streams, swimming use in lake.
% National Forest lands, and location in watershed (i.e. headwaters)	32% NF land, in various sized blocks scattered across watershed
Land Use by: % forested, % urban & % agriculture	88% forested, 7% agric., 1% urban. Water surface not accounted for.
Recreation pressure, critical recreation waters, and list of NF recreation opportunities & “hot spots”	High Moderate R.P. & Critical Waters Exist Places: Corinth Recreation Area, Houston Recreation Area, Lewis Smith Lake, Sipsey Fork Scenic River
Landscape character	Rural, Naturally Appearing
Municipal watersheds – name(s)	None
Total # point sources, # within or up stream of NF, and # downstream	1 RCRIS site, off NF land
Hydrological modification, ranking and dominant cause(s)	Moderate to high level of modification, Lewis Smith lake and road density dominant causes
Overall road density in the watershed	High degree (8 th of 41 watersheds)
Road density/condition on NF	Moderate degree (2.4 mi/sq. mi) / FS roads native surfaced in good condition.
Presence of impaired streams and location	None
Known riparian conditions on NF	No information
Aquatic PETS	1
Endemic Fish	4 (9.1% of the total fish spp)
Taxonomic Count of Fish	36
Soil concerns on NF	Similar to lower Brushy watershed except clayey soils are predominate in the lower portion.
Human Population changes or trends	Stable
LTA Name(s) – approx. % of wtshed	
Vegetative community types (from LTA description/CISC – indicate restoration needs) on NF	CONNHD – 2% DMSOAK – 16% LOBLOLLY – 50% MIXMES – 5% OAKPNE – 10% RVRFLD – 1% UPLDLL – 4% XERPNE – 12%
% by age classes: 0-10, 11-30, 31-60, 61-100, 100+	0-10 11-30 31-60 61-100 101+ 8 24 21 42 5
Botanical Uniqueness on NF	
Terrestrial T&E on NF	
Fire Management considerations	
Cultural Resource considerations	

Lower Sipsey Fork Watershed (HUC # 0316011002)
Bankhead NF

Category	Watershed Existing Condition
ADEM's Watershed Analysis	Not within a state priority watershed. 1999 State watershed analysis reports non to slight impairment condition (fish & bugs).
TNC's Rivers of Life – critical?	Yes
R8 Aquatic Assessment	High vulnerability
Proposed management emphasis – approximate % by Mgmt Rx	
Wildlife Mgmt Area or other special wildlife management emphasis on NF	
Other (air, major transmission lines, pipelines, Interstate highways, etc.)	

General Description of the Watershed

The Lower Sipsey Fork watershed is characterized by sharply rolling terrain and pronounced valleys. Some of the larger streams are incised in narrow gorges. Lake Lewis Smith has inundated most of the main channel. Landscape character includes rural and naturally appearing landscapes. Most of the watershed is in forested land use (about 9/10th) with a small agricultural component. The NF land occupies about one-third of the area.

There are some major influences within the watershed. Off NF land, influences include coal strip mining, agriculture practices, a high road density and logging. Lake Lewis Smith attracts recreation use and lake-side urbanization. On NF land, the main influences are recreation use (moderate to high degree) and a history of timber harvesting.

The aquatic condition reflects a diversity of native, endemic and PETS species. The aquatic vulnerability is high. The main riparian issue is the need for inventory.