

SL-145-1 TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

The study area is in the upland plateau section of the Appalachian Physiographic Province. The plateau is strongly dissected by streams which drain the area to the south and west. Rolling, glaciated uplands with about 100 to 150 feet relief characterize the upper reaches of the Babb Creek Watershed. The rounded hilltops here are as much as 1950 feet above sea level.

Relief is sharply increased to more than a thousand feet to the surface of the plateau as the streams cut through sandstone ridges which rim the Blossburg Coal Basin and become deeply entrenched in steep sided V-shaped valleys from that point to the mouth of Babb Creek. Extremes of elevation range from a low of about 860 feet above sea level at the confluence of Babb Creek and Pine Creek to highs of more than 2200 feet above sea level along the sandstone ridges which form the margins of the coal basin.

The Babb Creek Watershed encompasses an area of 129 square miles. The watershed boundaries and sub-watershed boundaries are illustrated in Plate I. From its headwaters at Welsh Settlement, Babb Creek flows south and westwardly a distance of approximately 16.5 miles to Pine Creek near Blackwell. Drainage is contributed by three major tributaries: Lick Creek, Wilson Creek and Stony "cork" Creek and many smaller tributaries including Dixie Run, Harrison Run, Long Run, Rock Run, Nickle Run, Bear Run, Sand Run, and several unnamed tributaries.

Lick Creek flows west from the village of Arnot 3.6+ miles to its confluence with Babb Creek about 1 mile upstream from the abandoned mining village known as Landrus. The tributaries of Lick Creek are Red Run, Silver Run and South Creek.

Wilson Creek flows from Dean Hill just south of Wellsboro 9.8+ miles south

to Babb Creek at Morris. Its tributaries include the stream at Slide Hollow, Rattler Run, Basswood Run, Wilson Run, Bridge Run, Sand Run (not to be confused with the tributary of upper Babb Creek also called Sand Run), Boose Run and several unnamed tributaries.

Stony Fork Creek is formed by two branches each flowing south and joining at Fork Point 4.1+ miles north of its confluence with Babb Creek. The East Branch of Stony Fork Creek flows 7.6+ miles from a swamp east of Russell Hill and the West Branch flows 6.4+ miles from the Middle Ridge Swamp. The tributaries of Stony Fork Creek include Roland Run, Paint Run, Black Run, Tumbling Run, Johnson Run and numerous unnamed tributaries.

Flow data and water analysis from the three major tributaries and the other streams affected by mine drainage are tabulated in Appendix C, page 108 through 126.