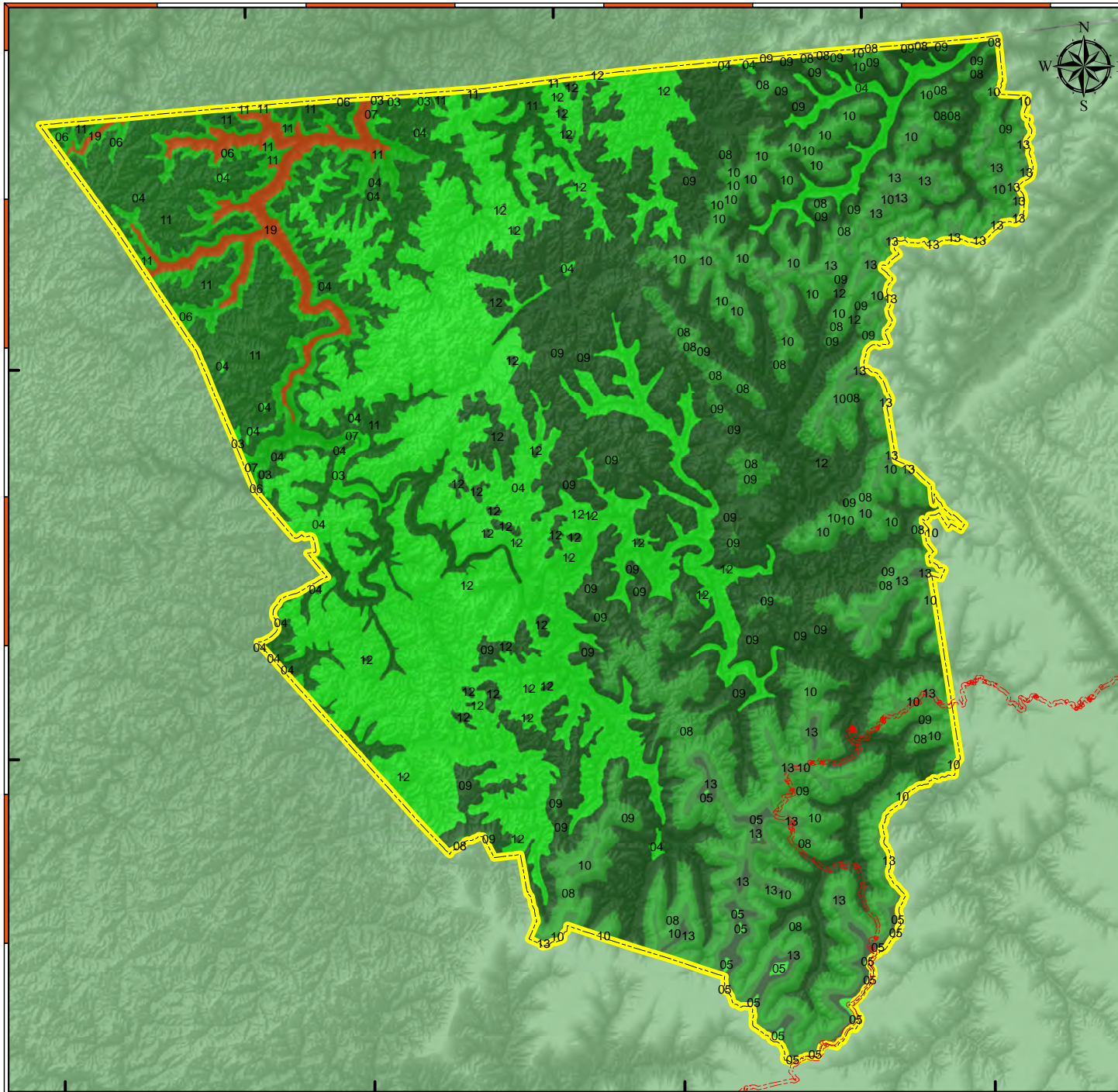


Scott County Geological Formation



Scott County is at the northwest corner of East Tennessee and bounded on the north by the Kentucky State line. Although entirely part of the Cumberland Plateau, the county has two distinct topographic terrains. The county's northern and western half is an eroded tableland with scattered ridges and deeply cut stream gorges. Along the county's eastern border and in the southern part, its remaining area is comprised of winding mountainous ridges. Streams forming deeply cut gorges and valleys have dissected the ridges. This rugged area is the western part of Cumberland Mountains, a major subregion of the plateau province. Both of these terrains are composed primarily of nearly level beds of Pennsylvanian-age sandstones, shales, and conglomerates, along with minable coal seams. Relatively level beds of Mississippian-age sandstones, shales, and siltstones line the lower walls of the stream gorges of Big South Fork of Cumberland River and its larger tributaries. Big South Fork of Cumberland River and its tributaries have dissected Scott County's eroded tableland. Level areas are relatively sparse, with relief commonly 200 to 300 feet. The western side of the tableland along the county's western border has an average elevation of 1,600 feet.

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