



**South Fork Curry's Fork  
Wetland and Stream Mitigation  
Oldham County, KY  
June - September, 2012**

The purpose of this project was to mitigate stream losses in the Salt River Basin by restoring approximately 3,734 ft of South Fork Curry's Fork and seven smaller tributaries. The primary project goal was the re-establishment of ecological functions of the channel, floodplain and wetlands. A secondary goal was the reduction of flooding on adjacent properties by removing 60,000 cubic yards of soil from the floodplain. This produced a bottomland hardwood forest and numerous shallow wetlands across the floodplain.

Prior to construction, the EcoGro team assisted KDFWR biologists with sampling aquatic species. Freshwater mussels were collected and moved downstream of the project. We also worked closely with University of Louisville's Stream Institute to implement new techniques in stream channel design and construction. Rather than focusing on precise channel alignments and shape, more emphasis was placed on rock gradient controls built across the floodplain valley. This method allows the stream to develop its own micro patterns and variations within a larger, stable and controlled context.



*Before construction.*



*Assisting KDFWR biologists sampling aquatic wildlife.*

**After:** A wide, shallow floodplain lowers flood levels on adjacent properties, reduces streambank erosion and provides a sink for sediment deposition.



*Floodplain excavated, pools and riffles created & wood installed.*



*Myriad wetlands in floodplain.*

**Project Partners:** Ridgewater, LLC, University of Louisville, Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Oldham County Schools, Oldham County, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US EPA, Kentucky Division of Water



- Key Features:**
- Flooding reduction
  - Natural channel & floodplain design
  - Water quality pollutant reduction

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