



Kentucky Green River Conservation Reserve  
Enhancement Program

Annual Program Accomplishment Report  
(CEP-68R)

Federal Fiscal Year 2009

November 15, 2009

## I. Executive Summary

The Green River is the most biologically diverse and rich branch of the Ohio River system. The greatest aquatic diversity occurs in a 100-mile section of unhindered river that flows from the Green River Reservoir dam through Mammoth Cave National Park (the world's longest and most diverse cave system) in south central Kentucky. This section of the Green River watershed includes 917,197 acres in the counties of Adair, Barren, Edmonson, Green, Hart, Metcalfe, Russell, and Taylor. Data indicate that agricultural runoff contributes high levels of sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and pathogens to the Green River and Mammoth Cave systems. There are currently seven species listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Green River system. In addition, the project area also includes several ecosystems recognized as Endangered Ecosystems of the United States, including native prairies, hardwood savannahs, canebrakes, and old-growth deciduous forest.

On August 29, 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the commonwealth of Kentucky agreed to implement a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) on the section of the Green River referenced above to restore up to 100,000 acres. The Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is one contributor, offering permanent easements to landowners in addition to CREP contracts and offering public relations and Best Management Plan (BMP) implementation assistance. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is a contributor, offering wildlife biologists and cost-shared positions with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist landowners and promote the program to enhance participation in CREP. The Kentucky Division of Conservation, designated as the state administrative contact agency for Green River CREP, distributes state cost share and incentive payments to landowners. Western Kentucky University planned and implements the water quality and biological monitoring for the program. Mammoth Cave National Park is also involved in the monitoring of the Green River and groundwater in the karst areas of the Green River CREP.

In late 2006, a proposal for an amendment to the Green River CREP was submitted to USDA. This proposal sought to expand the CREP region down river on the Green approximately 30 river miles to include environmentally significant watersheds downstream of the original project area and to utilize the community-based approach of this program to more effectively protect locally unique resources and provide better service to the local landowners.



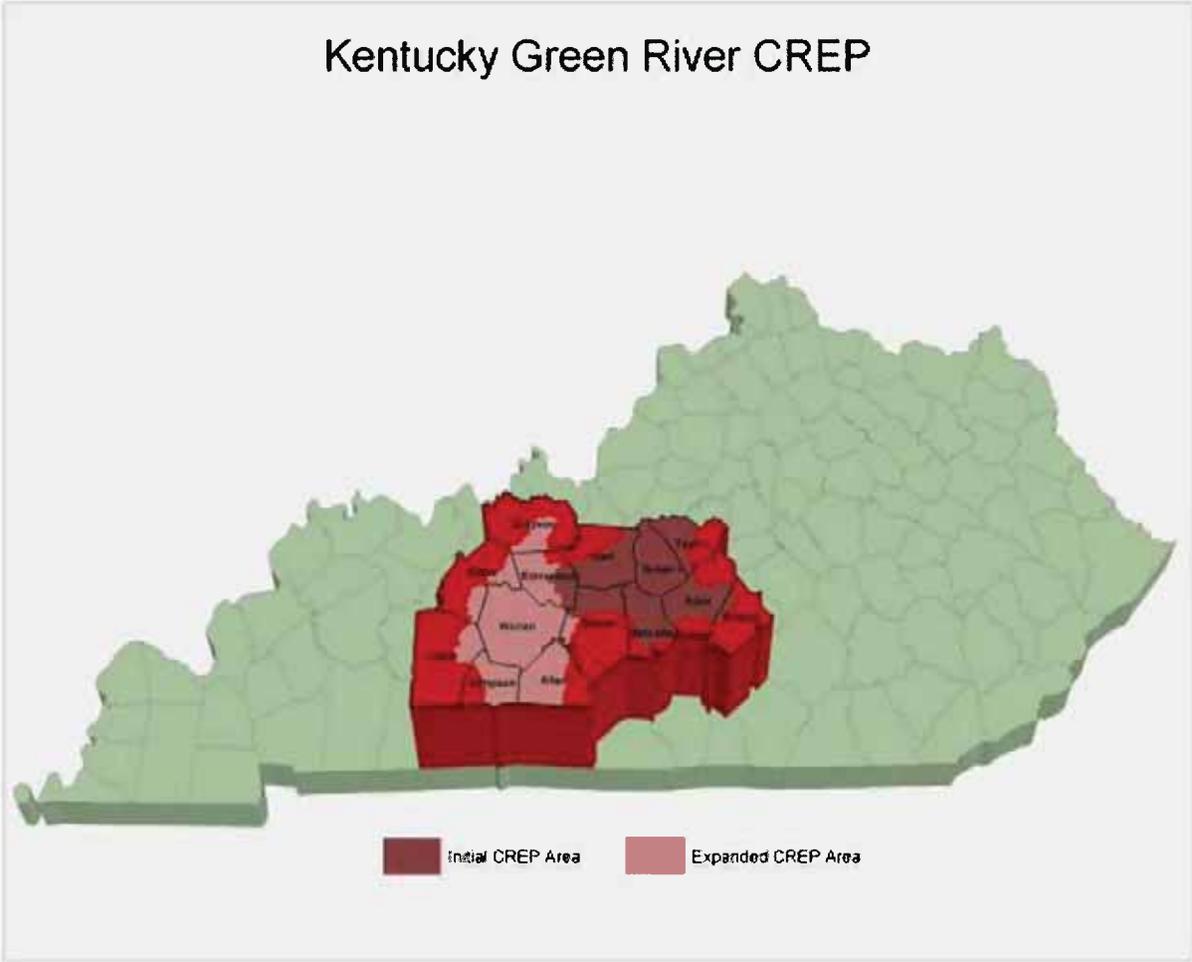
View of Green River. Photo courtesy of TNC.

The proposed additional area included all or parts of Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Grayson, Logan, Simpson, and Warren Counties (see map on the following page). This area contains a total of 946,101 acres and includes counties that rank among the commonwealth's top producers in several agricultural categories. In addition to the geographic expansion, practical changes to the program to more effectively service the local population and to protect unique natural resources were proposed. These proposals included the addition of the CP29-Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer to effectively buffer sinkholes in the watershed's predominantly pastured sinkhole plain. In addition, expanded buffer widths on third order and larger streams for the CP29 practice, as well as the CP22-Riparian Buffers practice, helped to more effectively meet local landscape needs.

After discussion and adjustments made by partner agencies, the proposal was accepted. An amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement was drafted, and the amendment became effective on February 6, 2007.

Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009) continued upon the hard work and dedication to this program begun in previous years. After enrollment spiked in FFY 2008, the past year has been one of wrapping up the program, physically installing the practices, and exhausting the allotted acreage for the Green River Conservation Program. In FFY 2009 19,889.7 acres (571 individual contracts) were put into conservation practices within the region. This brings the cumulative total acreage to 101,303.4, thus bringing to a close this

chapter in the Green River CREP, as the 100,000 acre limitation has now been achieved.



Aerial view of Green River Valley.

The following pages of this report contain charts and graphs that detail our annual and cumulative accomplishments in more detail and photographs of the region that represent the progress that has been made.



Brush Spring flowing into the Green River. Photo courtesy of TNC.



CREP Amendment Kick-off event in Barren County in August 2007



Areas such as the sinkhole plain have greatly benefited from the newly added CP-29 practice.



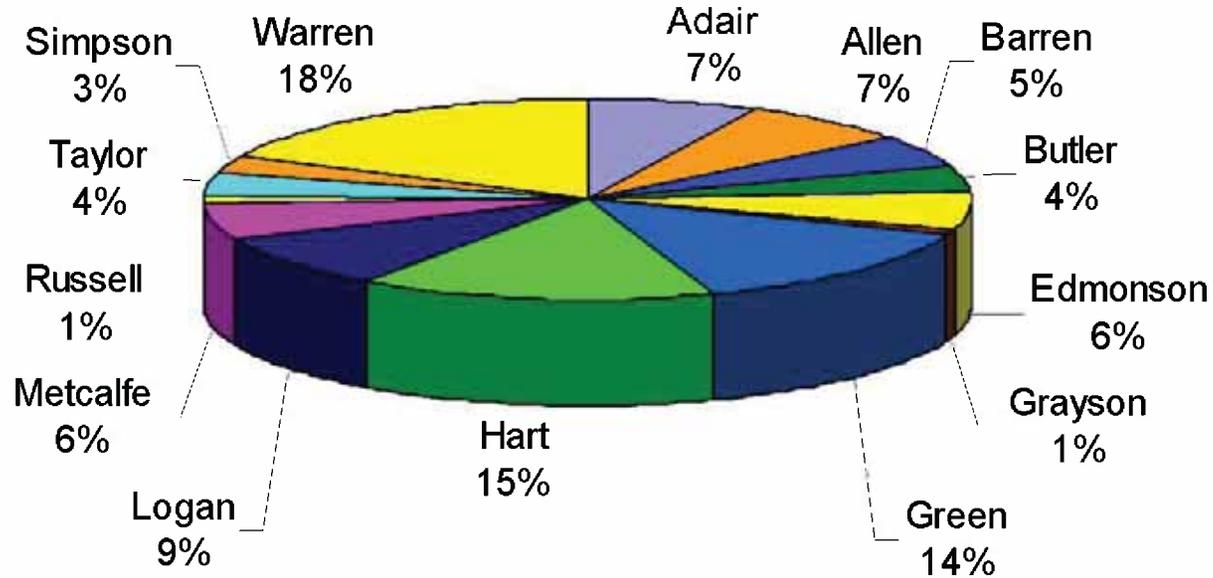
CREP Native Grass Planting

### Total Acreage per County per FFY

County	Total Acreage by FFY									Cumulative Total
	FFY 2002	FFY 2003	FFY 2004	FFY 2005	FFY 2006	FFY 2007	FFY2008	FFY2009	FFY2010	
<b>Original Area</b>										
Adair	4	16	199.4	693.4	326	245.1	3895.4	1740	328.6	7,447.9
Barren	605.8	1,012.30	609.1	112.9	155.1	150.6	1969.6	629.8	45.2	5,290.4
Edmonson	129.8	16	0	0	45.3	90.4	4587.9	950.8	283.9	6,104.1
Green	125.9	461	698.8	699.7	533.2	427	9154.2	1437.1	292.9	13,829.8
Hart	562.4	382.7	218.6	136	479.7	1,771.50	8,749.70	2,634.40	363.20	15,298.2
Metcalf	48.7	70.8	218.3	230.7	0	145.1	4592.4	442.6	0	5,748.6
Russell	0	0	0	0	22.7	25.1	479.8	658.8	49.3	1,235.7
Taylor	541	557.8	151.7	114.6	167.8	574.6	797.9	680.3	271	3,856.7
<b>Expansion Area</b>										
Allen						0	4851.6	2424.4	0	7,276.0
Butler						0	3805.8	230.9	0	4,036.7
Grayson						0	840.1	351.8	0	1,191.9
Logan						0	8438.9	642.7	0	9,081.6
Simpson						73.4	2083.4	445.1	153.9	2,755.8
Warren						2.6	13,314	3,845.6	987.4	18,150.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,017.6</b>	<b>2,516.6</b>	<b>2,095.9</b>	<b>1,987.3</b>	<b>1,729.8</b>	<b>3,505.4</b>	<b>67,561.1</b>	<b>17,114.3</b>	<b>2,775.4</b>	<b>101,303.4</b>

Program Not Available

## Percentage of Approved Cumulative Acreage by County



### Program Trend in Acreage Approved

