

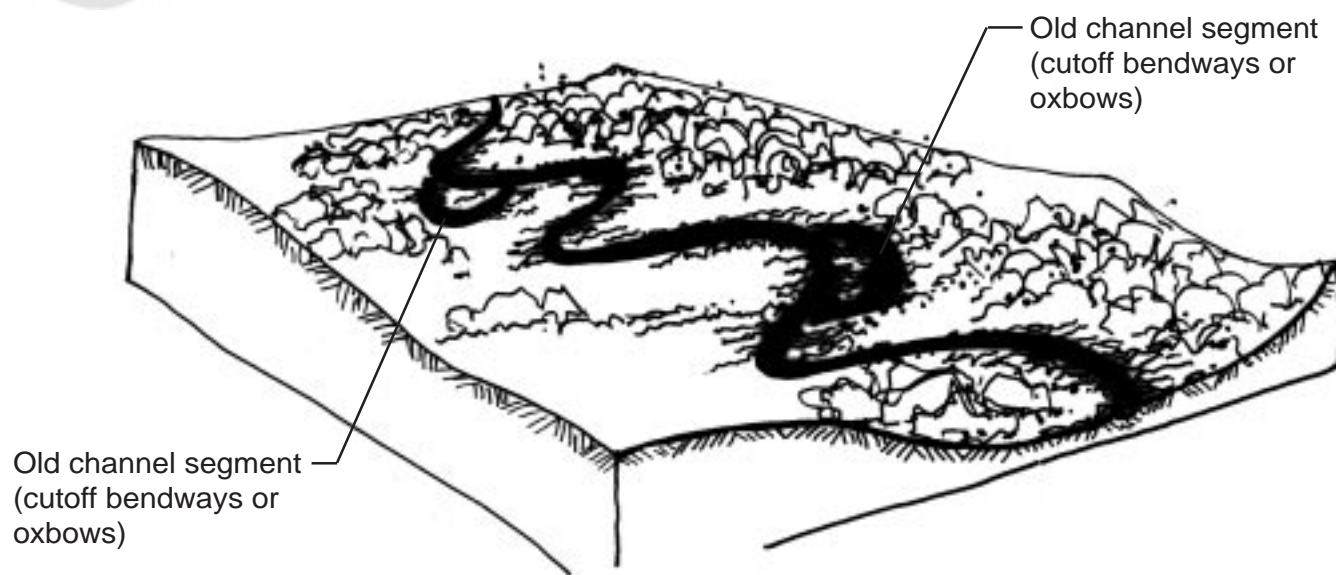
**PRIMARY USE:** Improve habitat for aquatic plants and animals.  
**ADDITIONAL USES:** Contribute to food web dynamics.

## CUTOFF BENDWAYS

**What is it?** A lake or pond is created by filling the upstream and downstream ends of old channel segments where they join the stream.

### Purpose

Valuable ecological, recreational, and aesthetic functions are restored when open water or wetland areas are created.



**Cutoff Bendways  
Perspective View**

### Limitations

Impoundments can block existing drainage outlets. Permanent inundation can adversely impact affected biota. This technique is not appropriate if water supply of acceptable quality is not available. Oxbows may require the removal of heavy trash loads received during floods. The bendways may have a short life if they are subject to heavy sedimentation.

### Materials

Materials may be necessary for installation of toe protection of embankment installation where it connects with active stream.

### Installation

Minimize disturbance to the stream and adjoining areas by scheduling the work when it will interrupt aquatic plants and animals the least. Determine if adequate inflow will be available or if supplemental inflow will need to be provided from the main stream. Plan for an outlet spillway as necessary. Determine if the ends of the bendway will need to be sealed. Vegetate overbank flow channels near the impoundment to reduce erosion threats during flood flows.

**Source:** Stream Corridor Restoration Handbook, USDA.