

TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL OPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

This design guide provides more detail on G&S I.C.3 and GS IV.B.7 by explaining what steps can be taken during post construction to provide erosion control in short order on stream banks through temporary vegetative measures. These measures are typically employed:

- when the grading and/or construction is being done in phases,
- when it does not make sense to plant more permanent vegetation or
- if grading and/or construction has not been completed by the rainy season.

These temporary techniques are also sometimes used in conjunction with final more permanent revegetation. The following guidelines can be used to determine if and how erosion control seed mixes should be used.

SEED MIXES TO BE AVOIDED

Some commercially available seed mixes contain species, which are invasive weeds, aggressive competitors with native plants and/or future fire hazards. **These seed mixes should be excluded from streamside areas.** Examples are Blando brome, rose or red clover and annual rye.

EROSION CONTROL OPTIONS FOR WORK SITES WITH EXISTING NATIVE PLANTS

These erosion control options should be followed in most areas along natural creeks, where native trees, shrubs and herbs reside on or near the work site. A site visit or referral of a good series of photos to a landscape professional familiar with native plants or a revegetation specialist may be needed to determine the best approach.

If no irrigation is available, if the slope is very steep, or if it's late in the season

- Use a non-biological method, such as straw, straw with tackifier, erosion control blankets (jute netting with straw or coir filling), etc. instead of seeding.

Benefits:

- The blankets are functional immediately after installation.
- The adjacent native plants will fill in at their own pace.

Use if there is absolutely no time to investigate site conditions.

- Use a Failsafe mix with 50 lb/ac 'Regreen' sterile wheat (Triticum X Elymus 'Regreen'), with 95% minimum purity, and minimum germination of 85%.

Benefits:

- This plant mix makes few if any seeds, so it cannot become a weed, and it usually lives only one year.
- The adjacent native plants can seed in thereafter.

EROSION CONTROL OPTIONS FOR WORK SITES WITHOUT EXISTING NATIVE PLANTS

These erosion control options should be followed in areas where there is no remaining native vegetation for miles around. An example of such a site is the back slope of a levee in an urbanized area.

For Sunny Slopes 3:1 or Flatter

- **California Native Grass**

Use a mix of:

Prostrate *Hordeum californicum* (Prostrate California Barley) @ 16 lb/ac, minimum purity 90%, minimum germination 80%.

Elymus glaucus 'Berkeley' ('Berkeley' Blue Wildrye) @12 lb/ac, minimum purity 95%, minimum germination 85%

Bromus carinatus 'S.F. Bay Area' ('S. F. Bay Area' California Brome) @ 10 lb/ac, minimum purity 95%, minimum germination 85%

- **Failsafe mix**

50 lb/ac 'Regreen' sterile wheat (*Triticum* X *Elymus* 'Regreen'), minimum purity 95%, minimum germination 85%

- **Non-biological method** as outlined above

For Slopes 2:1 or Steeper

- **California Native Grasses PLUS Mix**

Use the mix for Slopes 3:1 or Flatter PLUS *Vulpia microstachys* (Three Weeks Fescue) @ 5 lb/ac, minimum purity 95%, minimum germination 70%

- **Failsafe mix**

50 lb/ac 'Regreen' sterile wheat (*Triticum* X *Elymus* 'Regreen'), minimum purity 95%, minimum germination 85%.

- **Non-biological method** as outlined above