



Culvert Protection

Culvert Protection - Post Wildfire

Sediment and woody debris can be mobilized by flowing water following fire and travel down creeks and drainage ways. Small and medium sized culverts can easily become obstructed by debris and sediment, increasing the risk of localized erosion, road damage, and culvert failure. Protecting and maintaining culverts following a wildfire will help maintain stream flow, reduce erosion risk, and help maintain access to upstream habitat for fish and wildlife.

Recommendations

- Monitor culverts and remove accumulated material on a regular basis before and after rain storms. Small and moderate size debris can be removed by hand. Large woody debris may need to be cut or even removed mechanically.
- In areas with significant erosion, Check Dams, mini-dams built with logs or rocks, can help trap sediment. Check Dams are placed in channels in a series to repeatedly slow the water and capture sediment/debris. Check Dams are temporary measures and should be monitored on a regular basis. Failure can increase the risk of erosion and culvert failure. Check Dams should only be used in low gradient areas and can be fish passage barriers if not carefully installed and monitored closely.
- Many culverts on small creeks are undersized and unable to accommodate large storm events and debris flows. In these cases, replacing the culvert with a larger diameter culvert is the desirable longer-term option. Residents may be able to receive technical and funding assistance for culvert replacement from local organizations.



The Pure Water Partners (PWP) program is assessing risk to culverts as part of an integrated approach to erosion management on private properties impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire. If you are interested in assistance with erosion control, riparian restoration, or more information on culvert replacement, please sign up for a PWP site assessment by visiting www.purewaterpartners.org