

Holiday Farm Fire Erosion Protection

Erosion Blankets

What are Erosion Blankets?

Erosion control blankets/matting are lightweight synthetic or organic mats (netting or blankets) that come in rolls. They are rolled out and staked down to the soil surface. Erosion blankets provide short-term soil stability while vegetation is established in areas of high erosion risk. They also protect soils and conserve moisture. Erosion blankets can be expensive but are effective when installed correctly.

In ecologically sensitive areas, like riparian areas, biodegradable matting is highly recommended. Some matting products contain plastics that persist and can create entrapment hazards for small animals.

Jute and coir are two examples of 100% biodegradable erosion matting.

- Jute typically has a more open weave and can be used on terrestrial environments.
- Coir is heavier and comes in a variety of weaves or "weights." Coir matting is often used in areas where flowing water (on stream banks, benches, and drainage ditches) creates greater shear stress on the matting.

Where should they be used?

Erosion blankets/matting are most appropriate in ecologically sensitive areas with:

- A high burn severity characterized by high tree mortality an absence of leaf/needle litter
- Steep slopes
- High debris flow risk

Erosion blankets are used on slopes (jute) and in channels with flowing water (coir) where mulches will not stay in place (**Photo 1**). They aid in soil retention and protect slopes during seed and vegetation establishment when installed correctly (**Figure 1 on back page**). Erosion blankets are often installed in combination with seeding, hydroseeding, or native tree and shrub planting, though they can be used as a temporary erosion control treatment.



Photo 1. Erosion blanket example

Resources

The Pure Water Partners (PWP) program is working to place mulch in riparian areas and other priority areas as part of an integrated approached to erosion management on private properties impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire. If you are interested in assistance with erosion control and riparian restoration, please sign up for a PWP site assessment by visiting *www.purewaterpartners.org*

Jute supplies and materials may be severely limited due to unprecedented demanded associated the 2020 wildfires in Western Oregon.

Figure 1. Slope and Channel Matting

