

Holiday Farm Fire Erosion Protection

# Sediment Fences

# What are they?

Sediment fences are made of 4' woven geotextile fabric with wooden or metal stakes. They are available commercially as a pre-assembled product or can be made with materials from hardware stores. Sediment fences effectively trap sediment by ponding water to settle sediment when installed correctly (**see back - Figure 1**).

# Where should they be used?

Sediment fences are not intended to be installed in areas with concentrated surface flow like creek beds or ditches. Instead, they should be implemented in areas where runoff is more dispersed over a broad, flat area. Sediment fences should be used in areas with low to moderate slopes. Sediment fences should be installed parallel to the contour of the slope and anchored into the soil (**Photo 1**).

### Sediment fences come in two basic types:

• Non-pocketed sediment fence can be installed without trenching, by laying the bottom 6" of fabric flat on the soil, uphill, and piling soil/rock on the flap of fabric to create the "dam" effect. This is can be done on rocky soils and steep slopes.

• Pocketed sediment fences have sewn-in pockets for the wood stakes, and require that the bottom 6" of the fence be buried in the soil to prevent surface flow from running under them - typically by trenching. This can be a challenge on steep slopes, or in rocky soils.

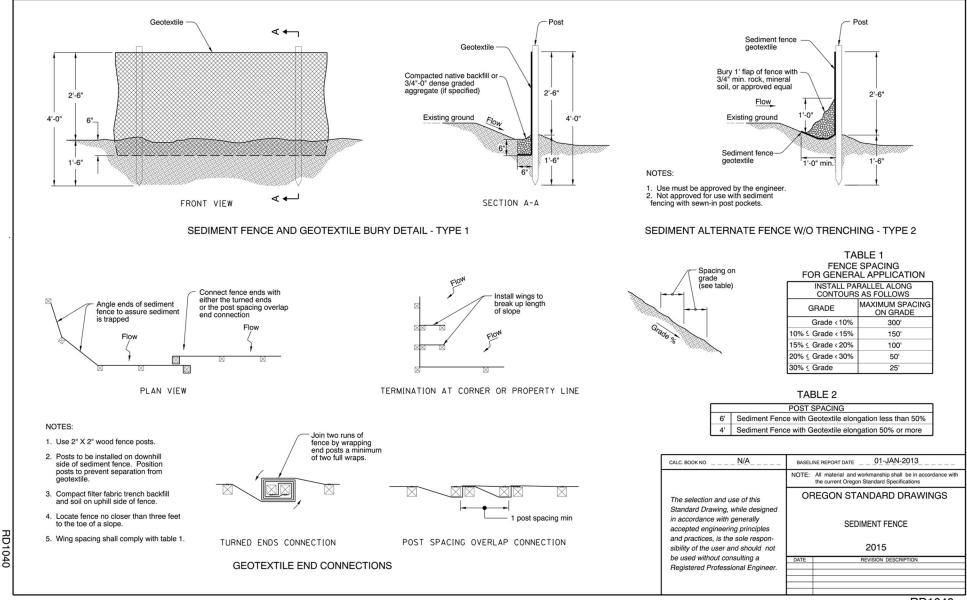


Photo 1. Sediment fence installation

### **Resources:**

The Pure Water Partners (PWP) program is working to place sediment fences on select sites 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.* 

#### **Figure 1. Sediment Fence Installation Specs**



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