Stream Bank Protection

Treatments used to stabilize and protect banks of streams. This practice is used to prevent excessive loss of land where stream banks are eroding, to reduce the offsite or downstream effects of sediment resulting from bank erosion, and to improve or enhance the stream corridor for fish and wildlife. All treatments are designed to consider the changes that may occur in the watershed hydrology and sedimentation over the design life of the treatments.

All bank protection projects are carefully analyzed for cause. Banks will be stabilized only if they are the source of excessive erosion and sediment yields to streams or to protect infrastructure such as roads, culverts, or residences.

Stabilizing banks using vegetation and bioengineering methods are the preferred options (may include toe rock as specified in Corps Regional General Permit 70); using rock above the toe may be needed in certain circumstances but will require additional agency review.

Grouted rock and concrete are not permitted. If rock is used above the toe, native riparian vegetation grown from plants in the watershed vicinity and appropriate to the site conditions will be incorporated within and above the rock.

Environmental values considered during planning and design include cultural resources; rare, threatened, and endangered species; air quality; and water quality and water quantity.

How the Permit Coordination Program Works for Landowners

- Landowner requests assistance from the NRCS/Cachuma RCD
- NRCS/Cachuma RCD develops a conservation plan to meet landowner needs, enhance natural resources, and comply with Program permits
- Landowner signs Cooperator Agreement to implement the conservation plan
- Project is covered by Program’s programmatic approvals and agreements
- Participating agencies include California Department of Fish and Game, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
- **All practices completed under this program must have a clear environmental benefit**

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