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TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

TRB Webinar: Climate-Resilient, Low-Volume Road Design and Management

August 7, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 PM

NOVEMBER 2022 UPDATE

PDH Certification Information

1.5 Professional Development Hours (PDH) – see follow-up email

You must attend the entire webinar.

Questions? Contact Andie Pitchford at TRBwebinar@nas.edu

The Transportation Research Board has met the standards and requirements of the Registered Continuing Education Program. Credit earned on completion of this program will be reported to RCEP at RCEP.net. A certificate of completion will be issued to each participant. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the RCEP.

ENGINEERING



REGISTERED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Purpose Statement

This webinar will present useful and practical climate adaptation measures that road designers and managers can implement to help “stormproof” roads and reduce the risk of climate-induced damage. Presenters will share key measures for road maintenance, drainage design, slope stabilization, and debris flow mitigation to prevent or minimize damage from fires and storms.

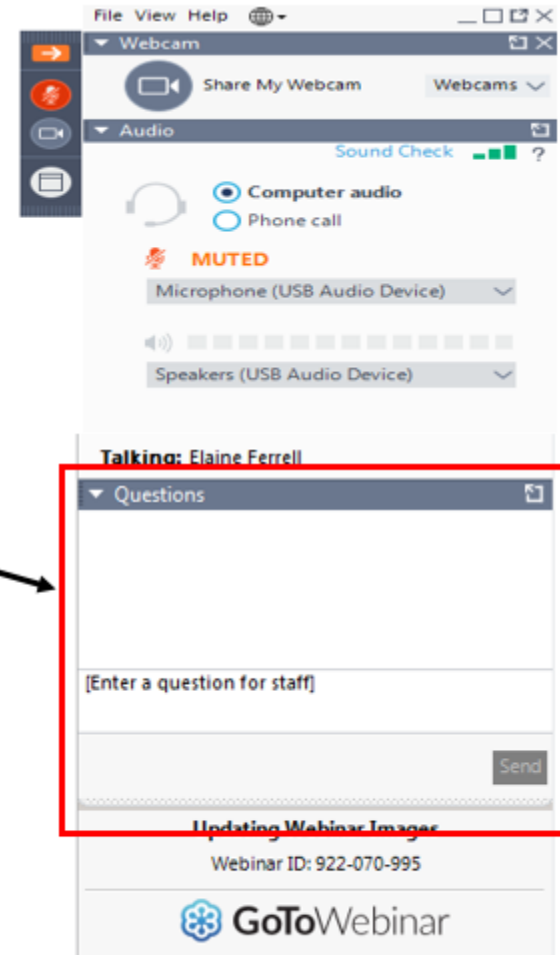
Learning Objectives

At the end of this webinar, you will be able to:

- (1) Utilize a variety of tools or design measures, particularly related to drainage, to prevent storm damage to roads
- (2) Implement damage prevention measures and fire-flood-debris flow mechanisms

Questions and Answers

- Please type your questions into your webinar control panel
- We will read your questions out loud, and answer as many as time allows



Today's presenters



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**NATIONAL
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CLIMATE RESILIENT LOW-VOLUME ROAD DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

Transportation Research Board Webinar
August 7, 2023



Gordon R. Keller PE, GE
Geotechnical Engineer
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2017 OROVILLE DAM SPILLWAY



- 190,000 CFS MAX FLOW
- 200,000 PEOPLE EVACUATED
- \$\$ 1.1 BILLION SPILLWAY REPAIRS

2018 CAMP FIRE, PARADISE



- 150,000 ACRES BURNED
- 19,000 BUILDINGS DESTROYED
- 85 LIVES LOST
- INSURED LOSSES \$7.5-10 BILLION



**MONTPELIER,
VERMONT
JUNE 4, 2023**

**MONTPELIER
JULY 11, 2023**



GETTY IMAGES

Sierra Nevada Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy for Infrastructure and Recreation



A partnership among the U.S. Forest Service Region 5, Office of Sustainability and Climate, Pacific Northwest and Southwest Research Stations, and University of Washington

PLUS

**Storm Damage Repair Work on several US
ERFO events and in Central America, India, and Nepal**

INFRASTRUCTURE AT RISK on California's National Forests

- **ROADS- 31,300 Miles**
 - **TRAILS- 12,500 Miles**
 - **BRIDGES- 800**
 - **FACILITIES- 6,500 Buildings**
 - **DAMS- 208**
 - **Numerous Culverts, Campgrounds,
Water Systems, Communication
Towers, Etc.**
- 

There are things we can do!!
(Improved Design Standards; Conservative,
Cost-Effective Designs; Apply BMPs)
KEY ADAPTATION AREAS

- ROAD MAINTENANCE
- ROAD LOCATION
- ROAD SURFACING
- CULVERTS
- BRIDGES AND FORDS
- SLOPE TREATMENTS
- EROSION CONTROL

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Prevent Water Concentration

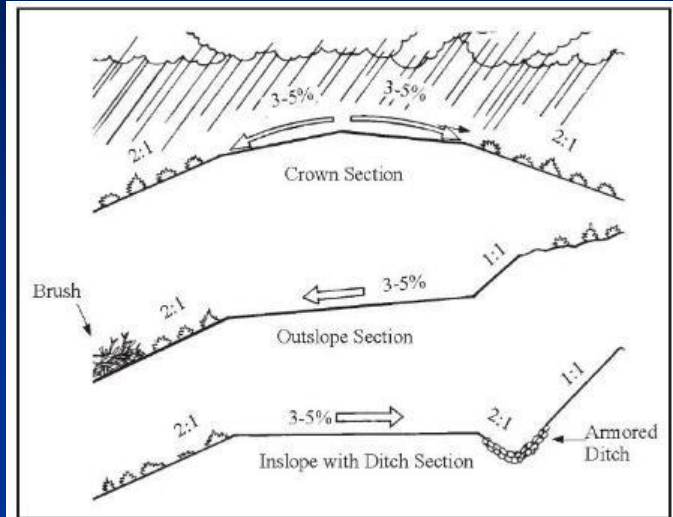
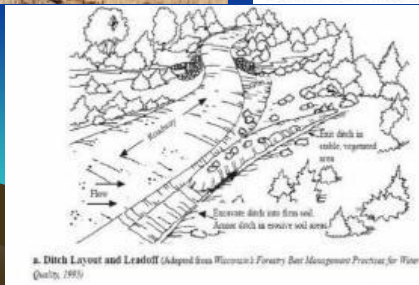


Figure 7.1 Typical road surface drainage options.



ROAD DESIGN & MAINTENANCE

Disperse Water Rapidly

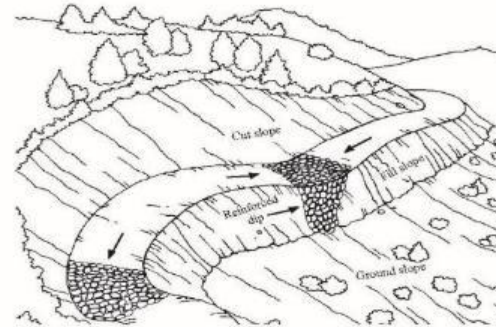
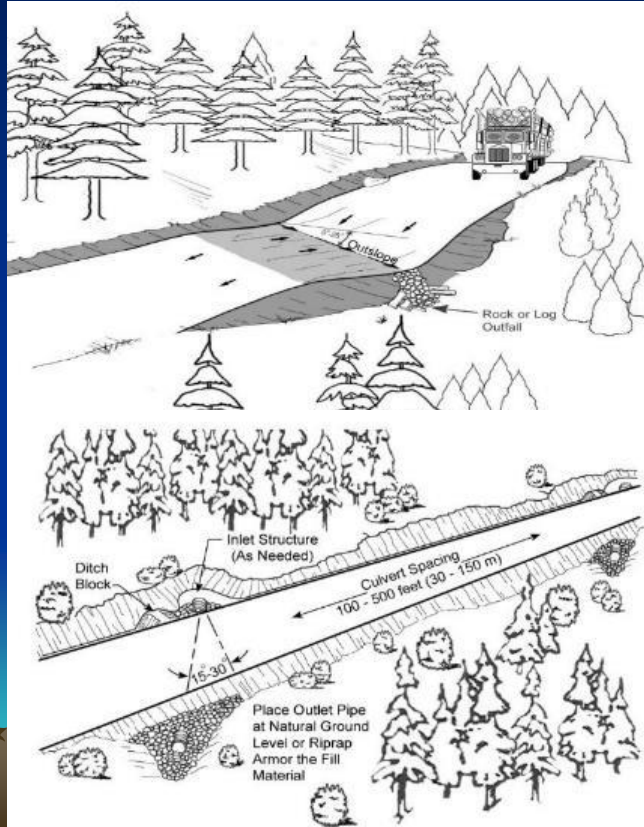


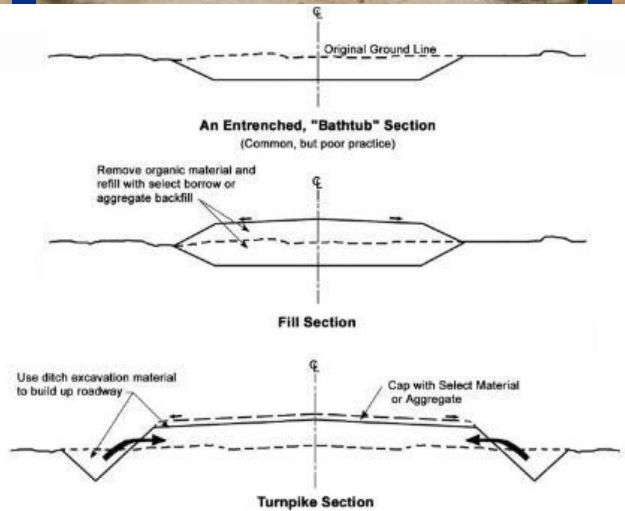
Figure 7-6 Basic Road Surface Drainage with Outsloping, Rolling Grades, and Reinforced Dips.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Prevent Water Concentration



POOR



GOOD!

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Increase standard cross-drain size
(24-36 Inch vs 12-18 Inch)

Small Pipes Plug Easily!



MULTIPLE SMALL PIPES ALSO PLUG EASILY



ROAD LOCATION

Avoid Channel Migration Zones



ROAD LOCATION

1. Move the Road

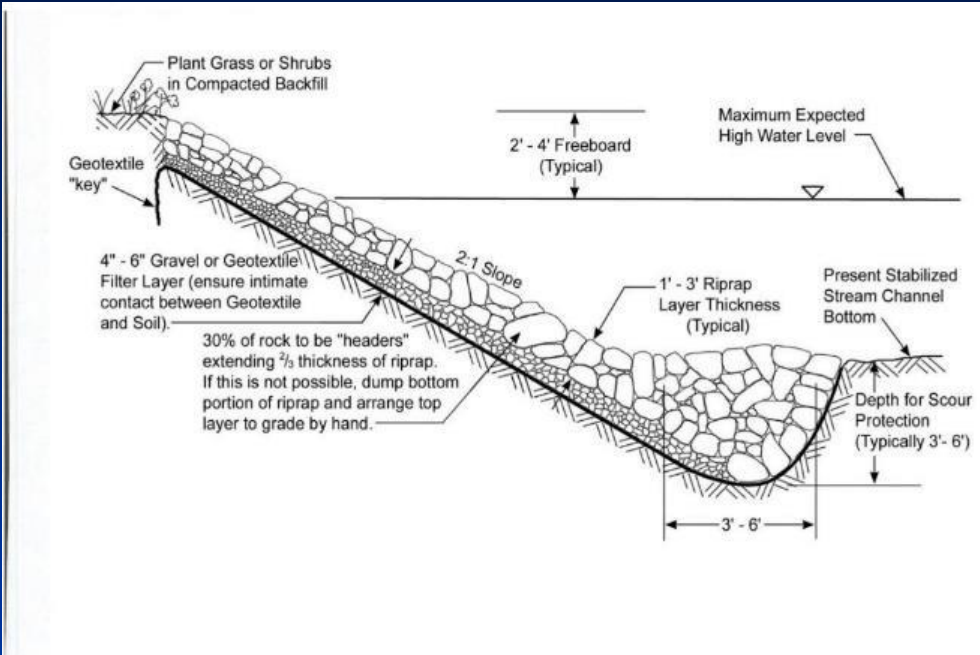
2. Armor Streambanks-Redirect Flow



RIPRAP ARMORING



RIPRAP ARMORING DESIGN



GABION ARMORING PROBLEMS



ROAD SURFACING

Armor the Road Surface



ROAD SURFACING

Armor the Road—Many Options



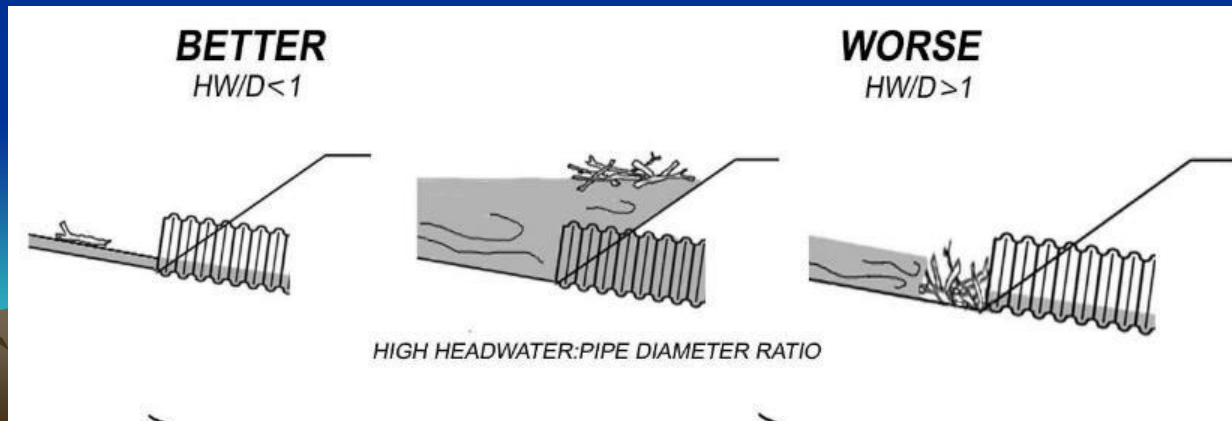
CULVERTS

Increase Capacity, Improve Design

-Q50-100 vs Q25

-Width \geq Bankfull Width

-HW/D \leq 1.0



RESILIENT CULVERTS

Increase Capacity—How Much??

Increase Design Flow by 20-30 percent

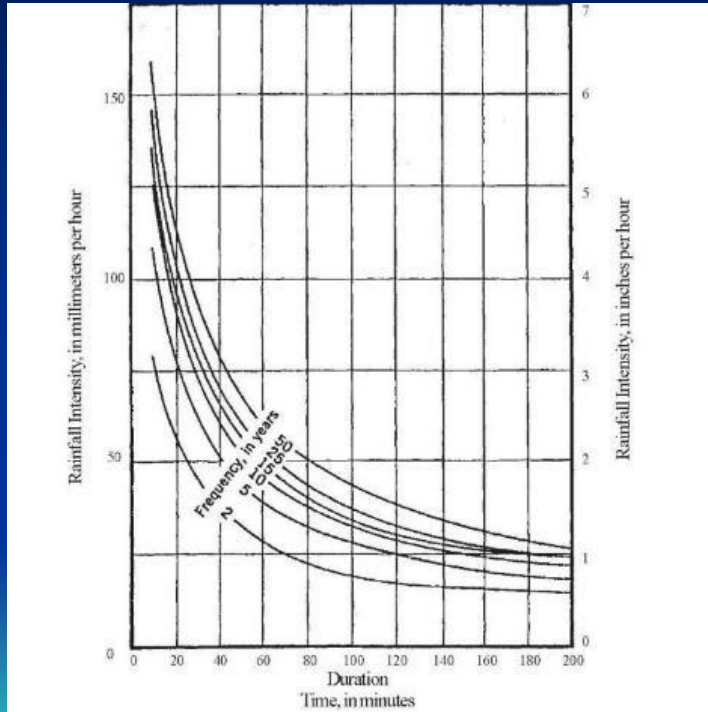
Increase Recurrence Interval Q100 vs Q25 (from USGS regression equations)

Increase Frequency on IDF Curve – 100 vs 50 yr curve with Corresponding Increased Rainfall Intensity (i)

Temperature Scaling to adjust rainfall intensity (i)



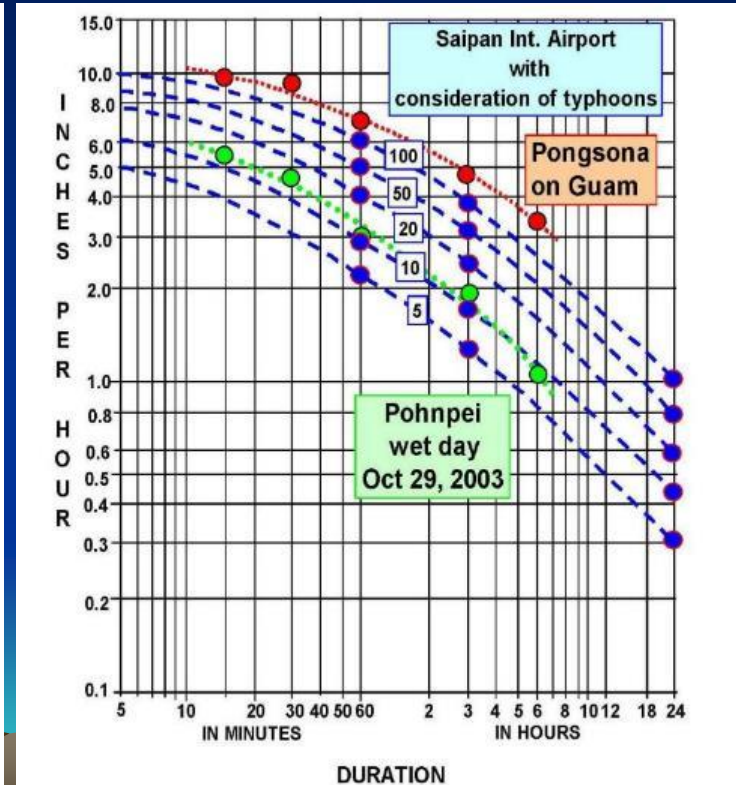
Typical IDF



Note: Common Maximum Intensity Values for 25-50 Year Frequency of Events:

- Jungle Areas: 200-400 mm/hr
- Deserts: 50-100 mm/hr
- Most Areas (Semi-Arid, Mountains, Coastal Areas): 100-250 mm/hr

Western Pacific IDF



CULVERTS

Stream Diversion



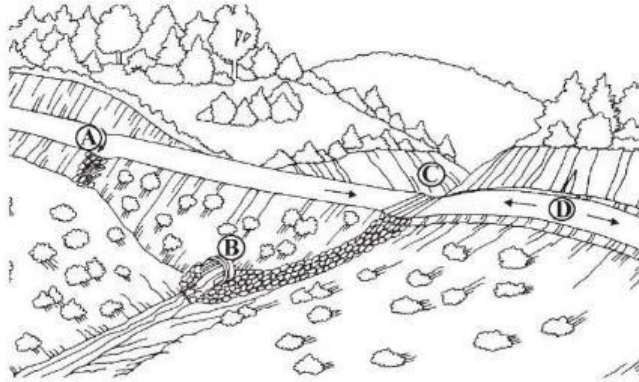
Don Lindsay



R. Stoddard

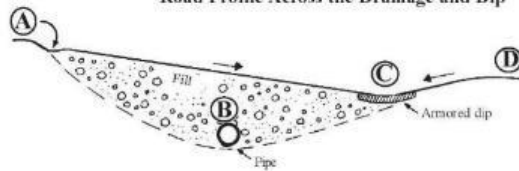
Stream Diversion Prevention Dips

Culvert Installed with Protection using an Armored Overflow Dip to Prevent Washout and Fill Failure



- (A) Roadway Cross Drain (Dip)
- (B) Culvert
- (C) Overflow Protection Dip
- (D) High point in the road profile

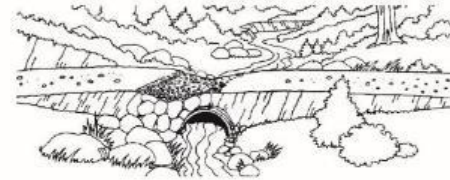
Road Profile Across the Drainage and Dip



a. Overflow dip protection at a fill stream crossing. (Adapted from Weaver and

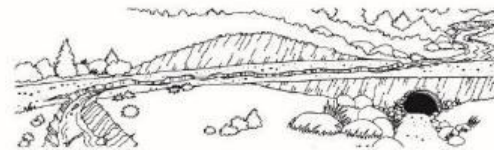


Good Installation

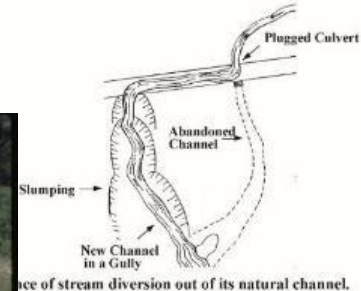


a. Armored dip over a low fill to prevent stream diversion.

Poor Installation



b. Sketch of a stream diverted down the road, forming a new channel.



c. Sketch of stream diversion out of its natural channel.

CULVERTS

Plugging Problems

In Mountains, 85 % of culvert failures are from plugging



G. Kercheson



CULVERTS

Prevent Plugging with Added Trash Racks



BEFORE



AFTER



CULVERTS

After fires with mobilized sediments—Add Riser Trash Racks



DAMAGED CULVERTS

Less Capacity-More Risk



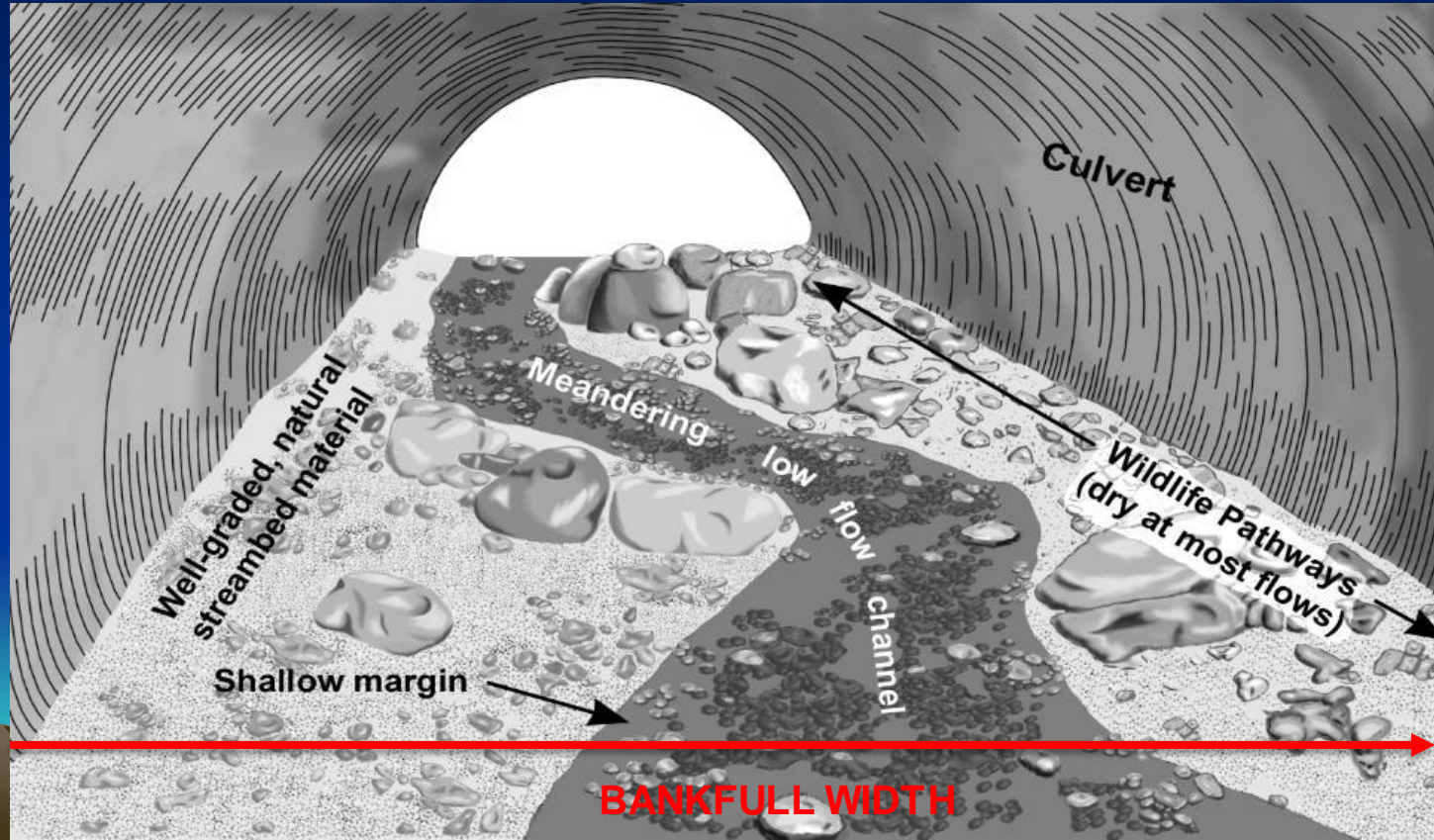
CULVERTS

Use Stream Simulation Concepts



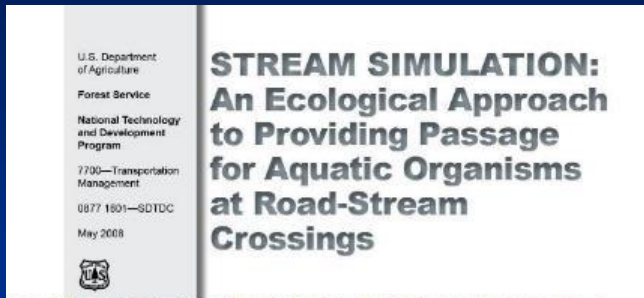
CULVERTS

Use Stream Simulation Concepts



CULVERTS

Stream Simulation



Penn State CDGRS



CULVERT COSTS

Stream Simulation

Stream Simulation culverts generally cost more initially

Life cycle costs are often equal or less

Culvert passes larger flows = less damage or replacement/repair

Less problems with debris = less maintenance

Less need for armoring



BRIDGE ISSUES

- **Obstructions**



- **Lack of Capacity**



- **Scour Issues**



“Scary” Bridges



BRIDGES

Remove Debris/Trees in Channel



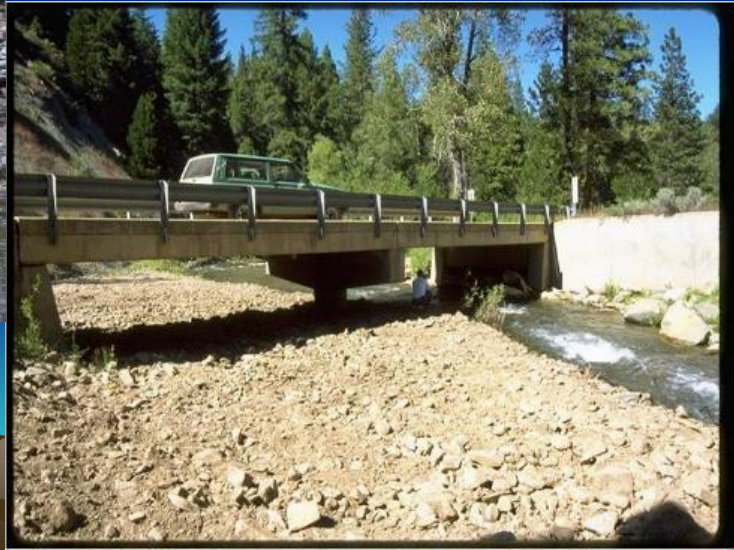
BRIDGES

Maintain Capacity and Freeboard



BRIDGES

Aggradation-- Remove the Deposited Sediment!



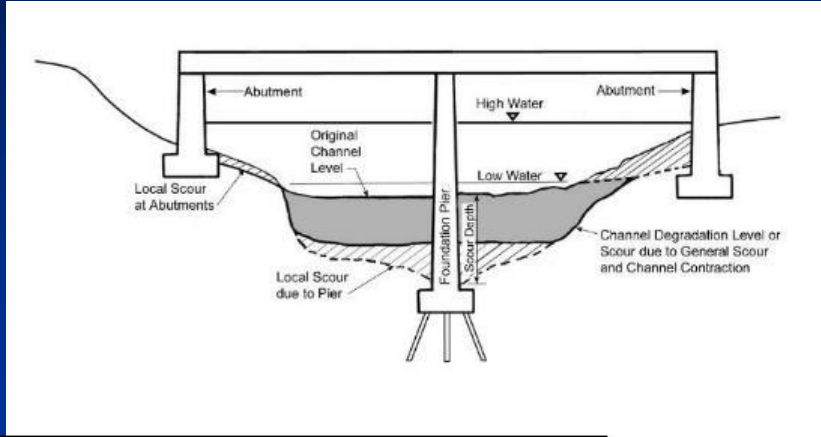
BRIDGES

Scour



BRIDGES

Use Scour Protection



D. Lindsay



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

ABC-Accelerated Bridge Construction



Justin Dahlberg,
Iowa State U.
Bridge Eng. Center



Precast Concrete
Beams/Units

Travis Konda

GRS Abutments



Buried Bridges



FORDS or LOW-WATER CROSSINGS



T. Warhol

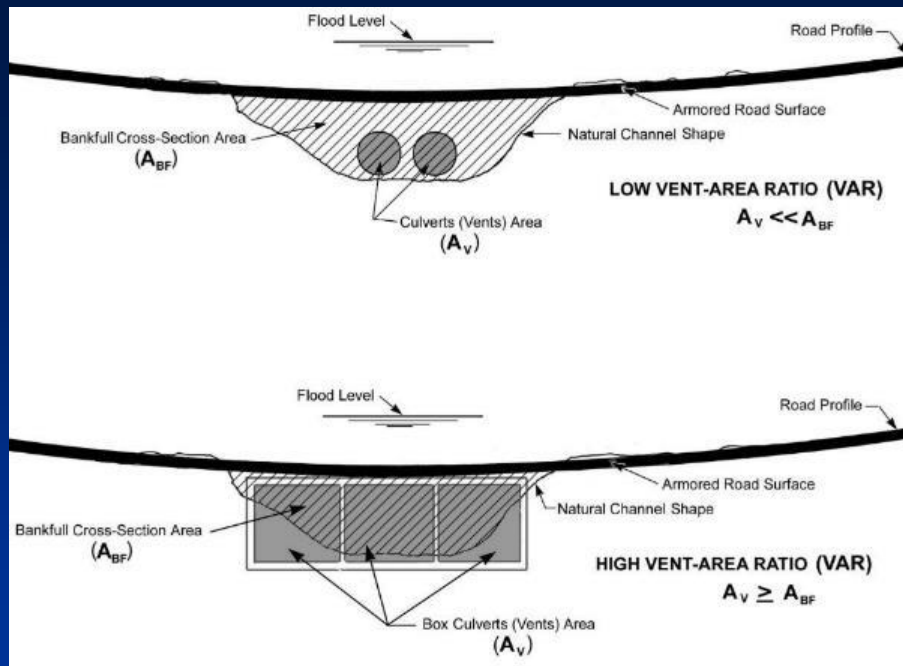
Where to Use a Low-Water Crossing

- ****Flashy Flows/High Flow Fluctuation**
- **Low Traffic Use**
- **Delays are Acceptable/Non-critical Route**
- **Broad/Flat Channels (Slightly Entrenched)**
- ****Debris Prone Channels**
- **Grade Control Structures/Barriers**
- **\$\$\$-Least Expensive Alternative**

FORDS or LOW-WATER CROSSINGS

Small Pipes Plug Easily





**LOW
VAR**

**HIGH
VAR
(Better!)**



FORDS or LOW-WATER CROSSINGS



10 Foot Diameter Pipe
"Plugged"



Finally, a Vented Ford!



SLOPE INSTABILITY



P. Luehring



M. Long



CDOT

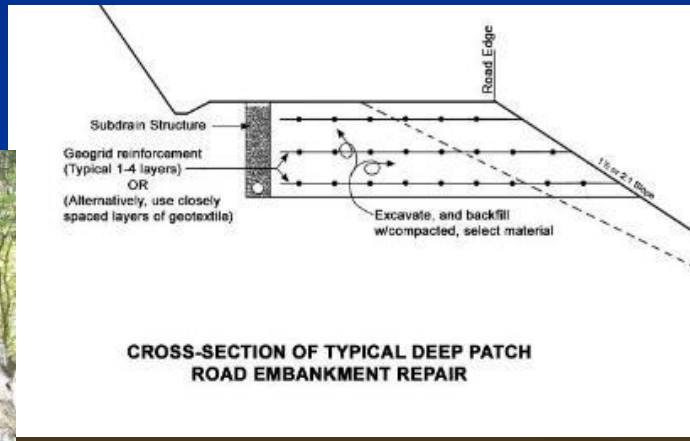
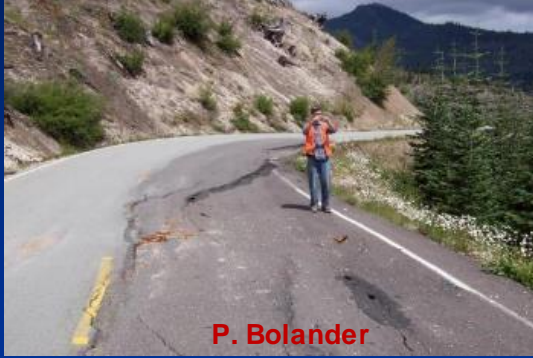
SLOPE TREATMENTS

MSE/GRS Walls/Buttresses



SLOPE TREATMENTS

Deep Patch Shoulder Reinforcement



SLOPE TREATMENTS

Problems with Shallow-Rooted Vegetation



SLOPE TREATMENTS

Vegetative Protection

Deep-Rooted Vegetation



Soil Bio- Engineering



SLOPE TREATMENTS

Debris Flow Damage



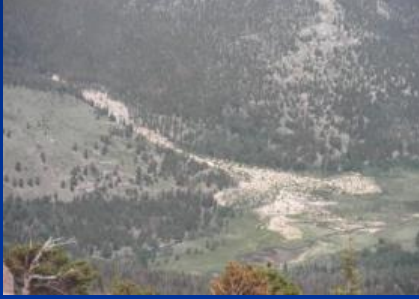
A. King



Y. Schwartz



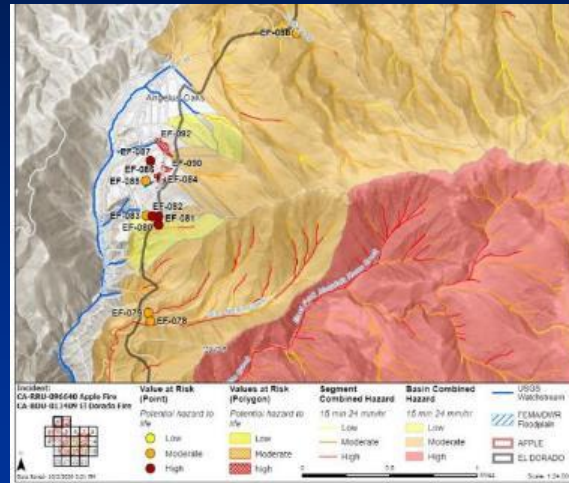
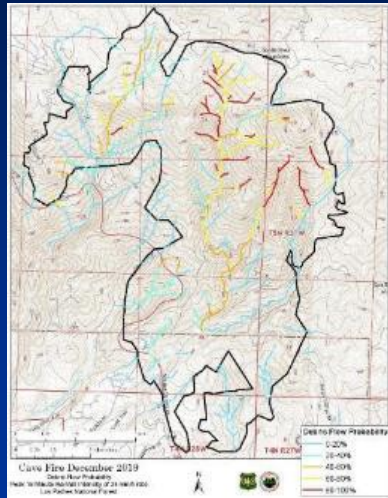
CalTrans



Don Lindsay, CGS

SLOPE TREATMENTS

Debris Flow Protection



Y. Schwartz



H. Rabin, CGS

SLOPE TREATMENTS

Debris Flow Protection



D. Lindsay



A. King

EROSION CONTROL

Drainage Control and Ground Cover

Control of Water



Ground Cover



EROSION CONTROL

Deep Rooted Vegetation, Nets, RECP



Photo 8: Vetiver roots in soil (left and middle) and when grown



INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT AND RISK

- **Have good asset inventories**
- **Form an interdisciplinary team**
- **Identify the assets at risk**
- **Examine site data and history**
- **Study relevant climate data/stressors**
- **Study relevant hydrology projections**
- **Conduct risk assessment**
- **Rank asset vulnerability**
- **Prioritize needed work**

INFORMATION SOURCES

- USFS- Transportation Resiliency Guidebook, Appendix B
- FHWA- Adaptation Decision-Making Assessment Process (ADAP)
- CANADA-Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee

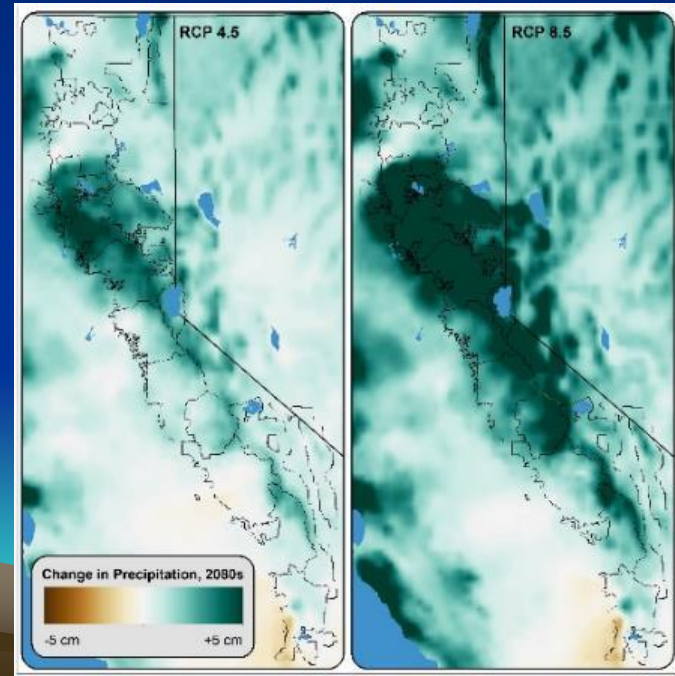
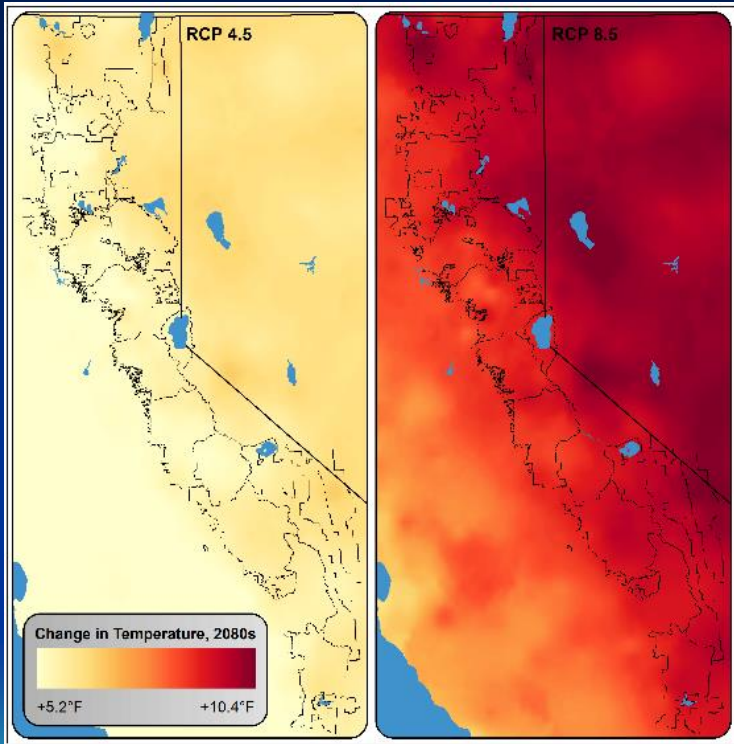


Risk Assessment

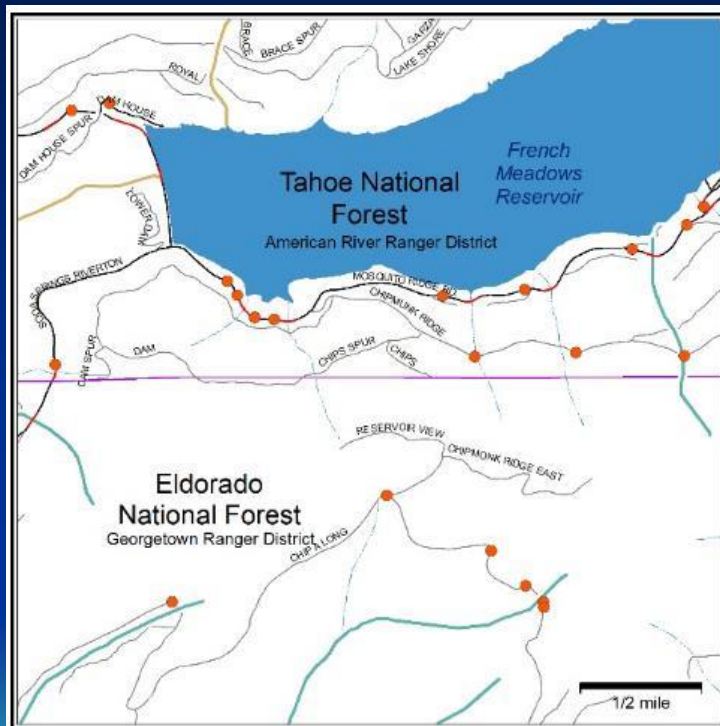
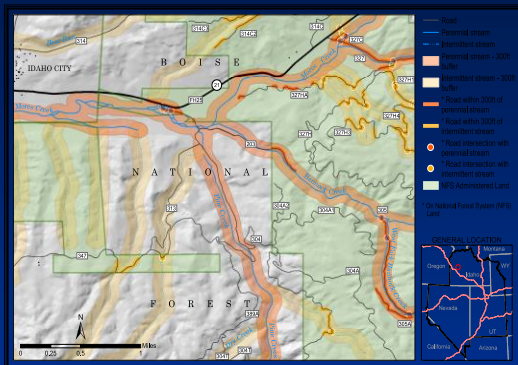
Table 1—Risk assessment matrix

Probability of Damage or Loss	Magnitude of Consequences		
	RISK		
	Major	Moderate	Minor
Very likely	Very high	Very high	Low
Likely	Very high	High	Low
Possible	High	Intermediate	Low
Unlikely	Intermediate	Low	Very low

TOOLS/PRODUCTS



TOOLS/PRODUCTS



KEY REFERENCES

Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) treatments catalog (Napper 2006). Online:

https://www.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs/pdf/BAERCAT/lo_res/06251801L.pdf

Climate-resilient infrastructure: Adaptive design and risk management. (ASCE 2018). ASCE Manuals and Reports on Engineering Practice No.140. American Society of Civil Engineers committee on adaptation to a changing climate. Reston, Virginia. 294 p.

Highways in the river environment—floodplains, extreme events, risk, and resilience (FHWA -HEC 17) (Kilgore et al. 2016). Online: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/pubs/hif16018.pdf>

Natural disaster reduction for roads (PIARC 1999). A World Roads Association publication outlining disaster prevention measures for infrastructure. Online: <http://www.piarc.org>

Climate Adaptation: Risk Management and Resilience Optimization for Vulnerable Road Access in Africa: Engineering Adaptation Guidelines, (Paige-Green, P., Verhaeghe, B., Head, M. 2019). GEN2014C. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Paige-Green Consulting (Pty) Ltd and St Helens Consulting Ltd London: ReCAP for DFID. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f9d7c9ae90e070413b14ee6/CSIR-PGC-StHelens-ClimateAdaptation-EngineeringAdaptationGuideline-AfCAP-GEN2014C-190926-compressed.pdf>

Storm damage risk reduction guide for low-volume roads (Keller and Ketcheson 2015).. Online:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf12771814/pdf12771814dpi100.pdf>

Synthesis of approaches for addressing resilience in project development (FHWA -HEP-17-082, 2017).

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/resilience/ongoing_and_current_research/teacr/synthesis/index.cfm

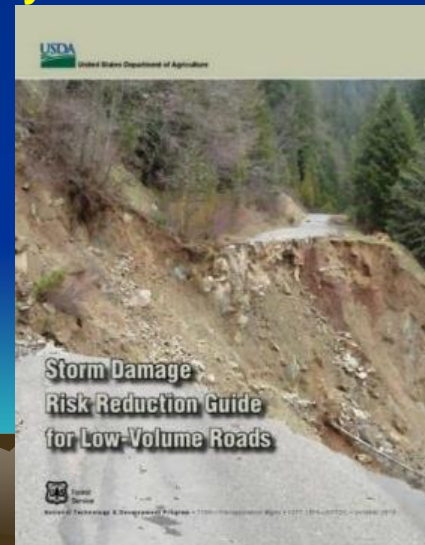
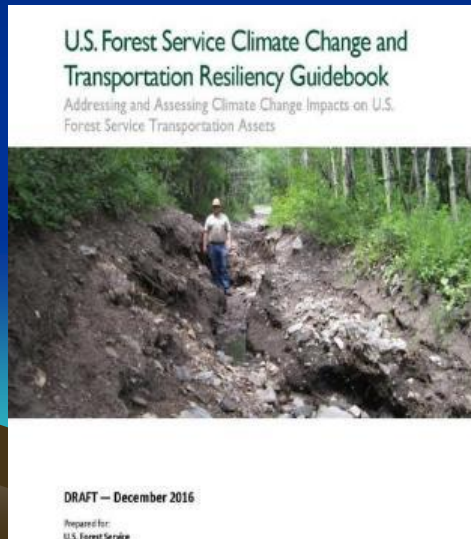
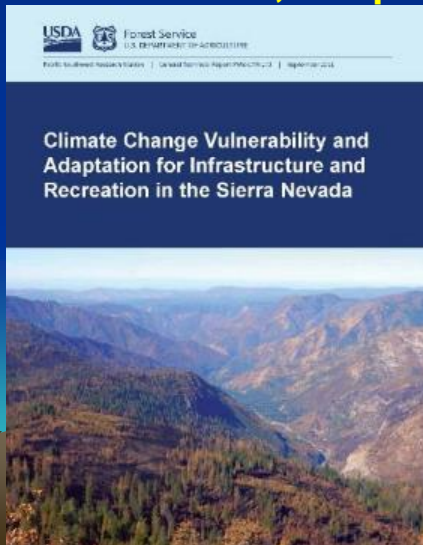


Storm Damage Risk Reduction Guide for Low-Volume Roads

<http://www.fs.fed.us/td/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf12771814/pdf12771814dpi100.pdf>

US Forest Service Climate Change & Transportation Resiliency Guidebook

PSW-GTR 272, Chapter 4: Infrastructure Vulnerability





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Fire, Floods, and Debris Flow Impacts to Roads

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Supervising Engineering Geologist and Geotechnical Engineer

California Geological Survey

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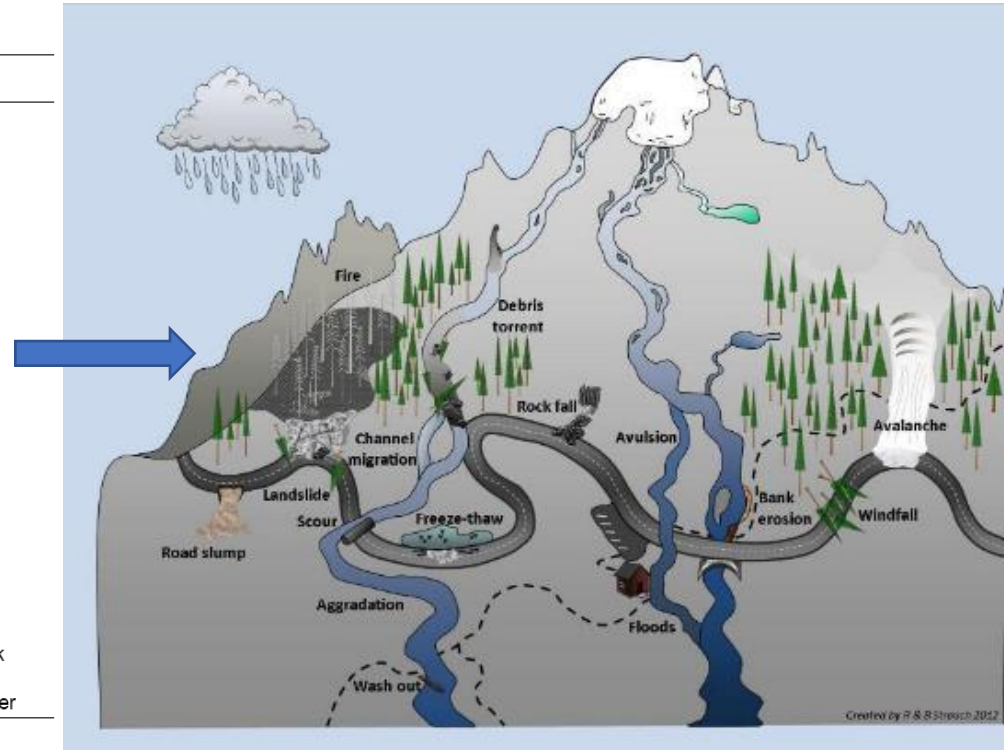
Outline

- Post-fire Effects
- Post-fire hazards (emphasis on roads)
- Models used to predict post-fire hazards
- Post-fire hazard mitigations
- Summary

Post-fire Effects Post-fire Hazards

Table 11—Changes in hydrologic processes caused by wildfires (Neary and others 2005).

Hydrologic process	Type of change	Specific effect
Interception	Reduced	Moisture storage smaller Greater runoff in small storms Increased water yield
Litter and duff storage of water	Reduced	Less water stored Overland flow increased
Transpiration	Temporary elimination	Streamflow increased Soil moisture increased
Infiltration	Reduced	Overland flow increased Stormflow increased
Stream flow	Changed	Increased in most ecosystems Decreased in snow systems Decreased on fog-drip systems
Baseflow	Changed	Decreased (less infiltration) Increased (less evaporation) Summer low flows (+ and -)
Stormflow	Increased	Volume greater Peakflows larger Time to peakflow shorter Flashflood frequency greater Flood levels higher
Snow accumulation	Changed	Stream erosive power increased Fires <10 ac, increased snowpack Fires >10 ac, decreased snowpack Snowmelt rates increased Evaporation and sublimation greater



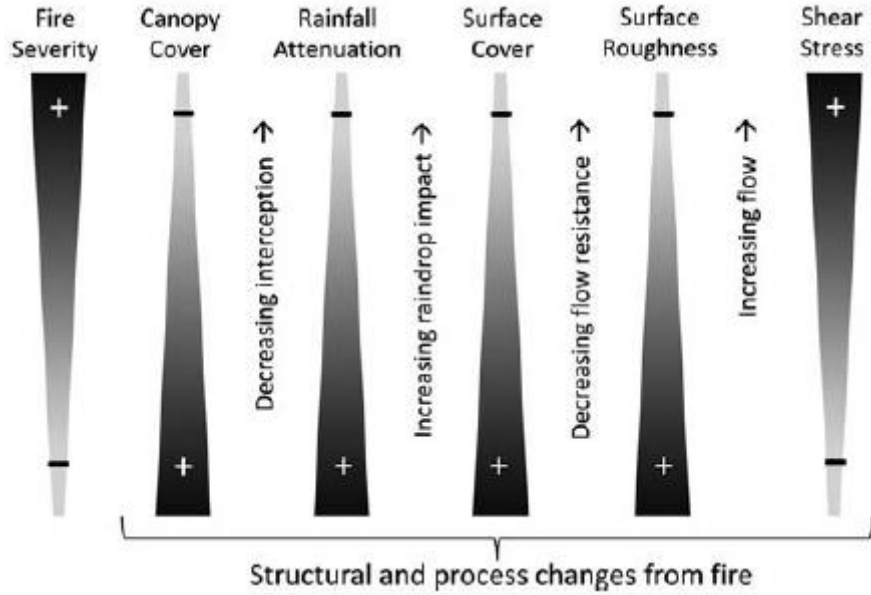
Source: Strauch et al. 2014

Post-fire Hazards Related to Roads

- Flood Flows
- Erosion-induced Debris Flows
- Landsliding
- Direct impacts to combustible structures

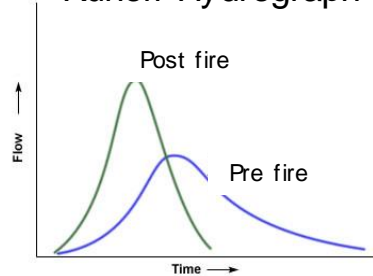


Post-fire flood flows



Adapted from Hyde et al., 2014

Runoff Hydrograph



Post-fire flood flows

Function of:

- Peak short-term (e.g., 15-minute) rainfall intensity
- Watershed size
- Percent moderate and high soil burn severity
- Time since the fire (most common in first 3 years following fire)
- Evaluability of sediment and debris that can be entrained.

Commonly result in:

- Plugged/Overtopped crossing structures
- Scour and deposition
- Bank failure
- Avulsion



Post-fire Runoff/Erosion-induced Debris Flows

Initiated by short durations of high-intensity rain. Due to lack of interception, surface roughness, and infiltration limiting conditions, runoff is rapid and develops quickly into overland flow.

Rills initiate within first order draws and become concentrated.



Channelized flow scours
low-order channels, bulking
flows and building
momentum.



01/18/2018

Flows bulk to the point where they reach debris flow concentrations ($\sim \geq 50\%$ by volume) having the consistency of wet concrete.

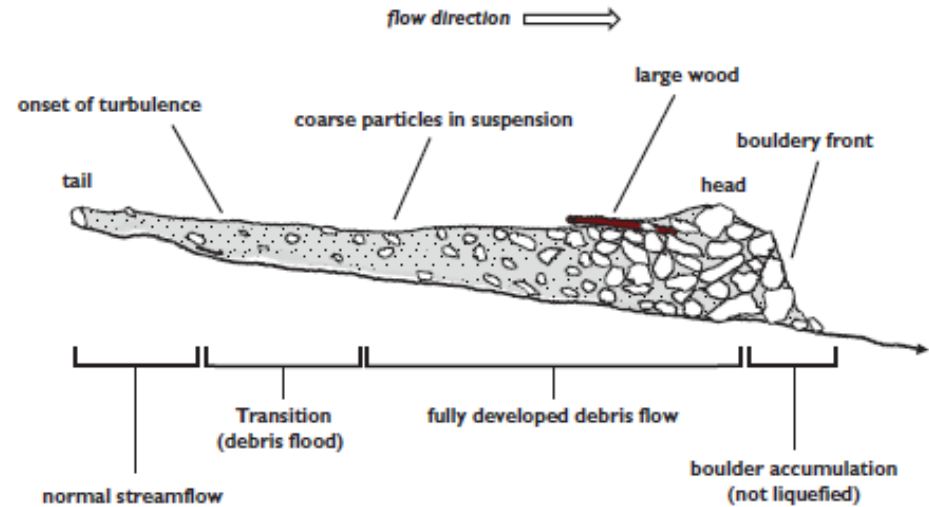
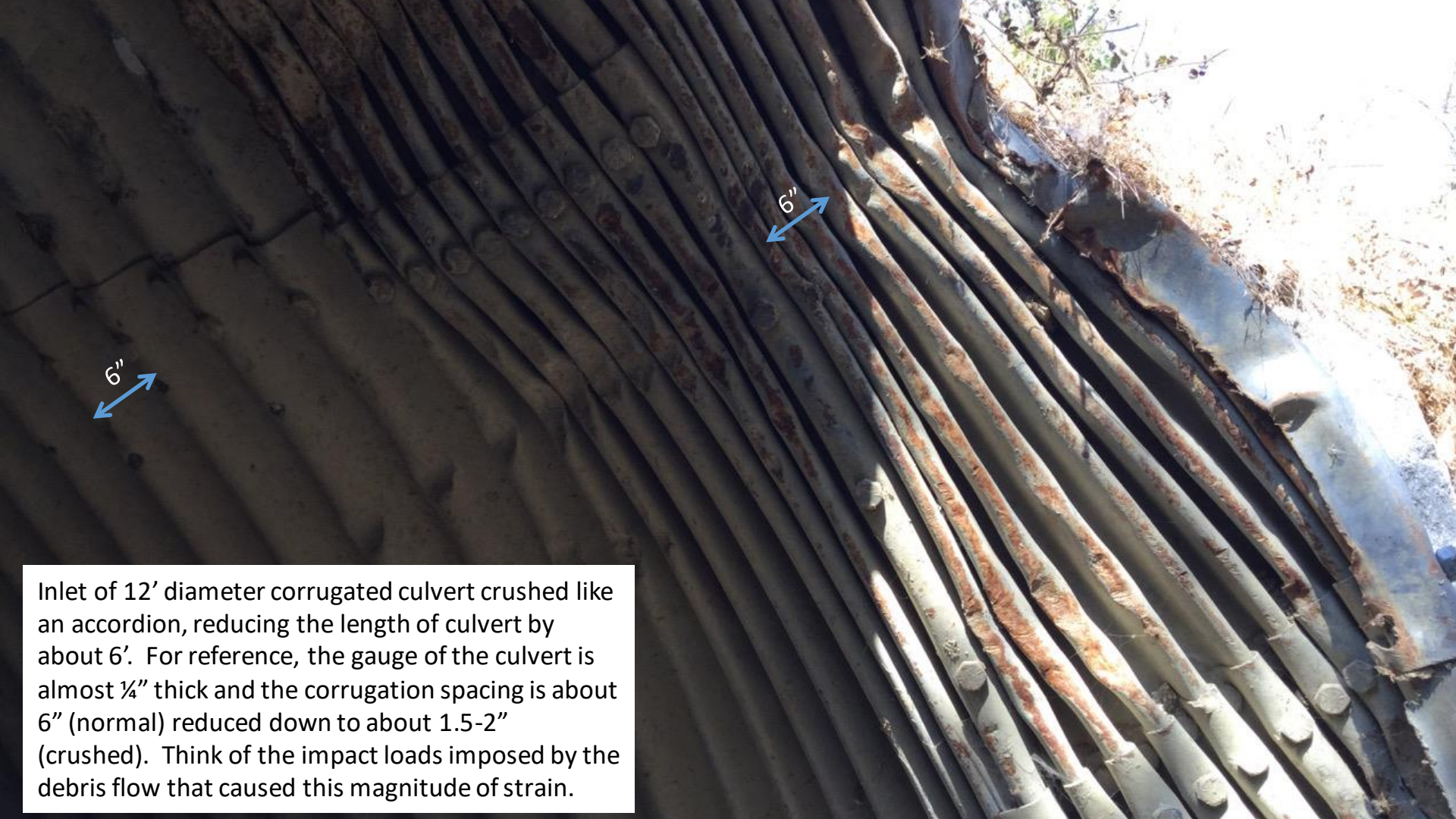


Figure 4.3 Typical longitudinal section through a debris flow with decreasing solids concentration from the front to the rearward part. Adapted from PIERSON (1986). From Rickenmann, 2016

01/18/2018

Due to their high kinetic energy caused by fast moving, dense, viscous fluids, debris flows are very damaging to road infrastructure.





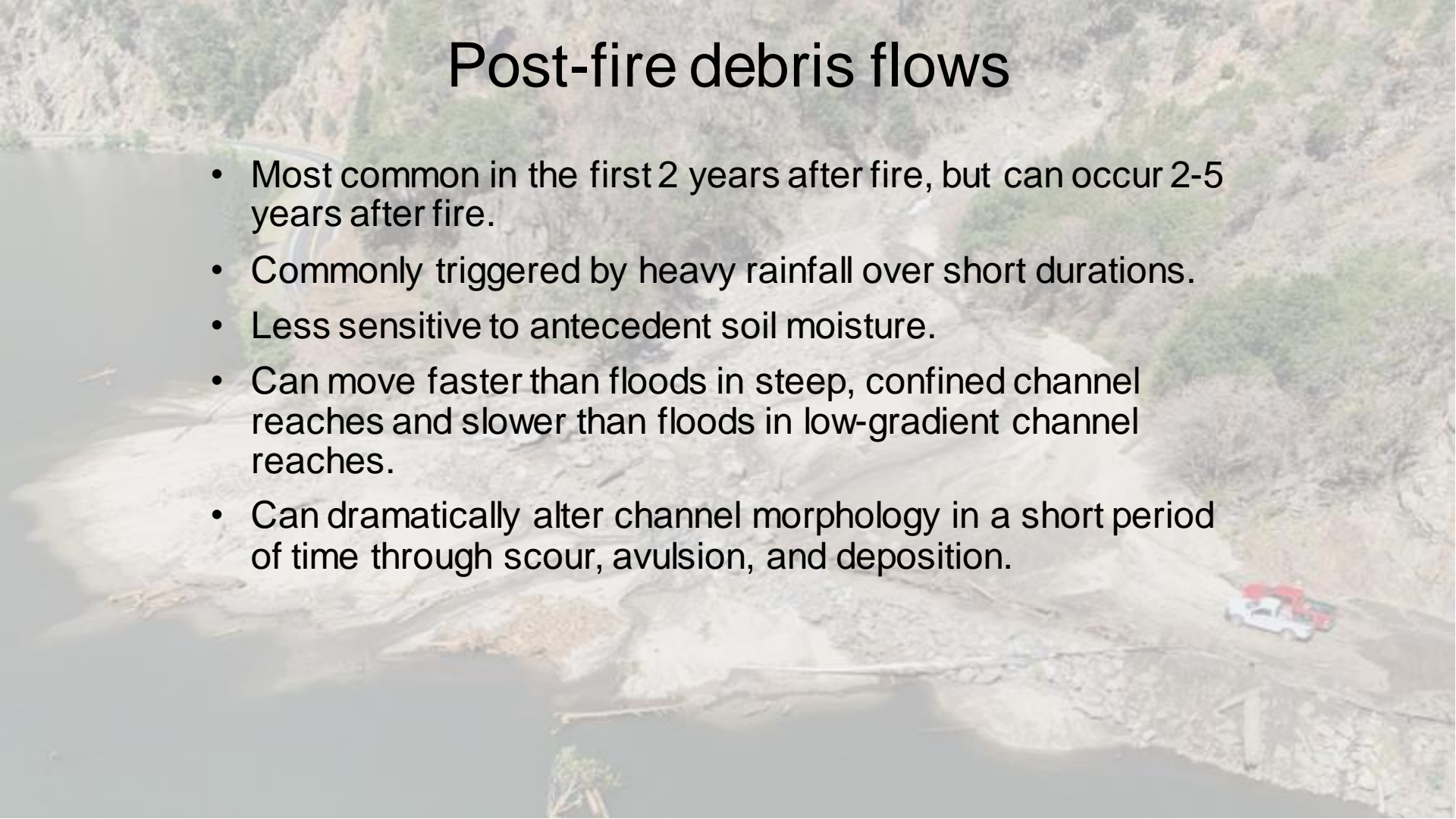
Inlet of 12' diameter corrugated culvert crushed like an accordion, reducing the length of culvert by about 6'. For reference, the gauge of the culvert is almost $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick and the corrugation spacing is about 6" (normal) reduced down to about 1.5-2" (crushed). Think of the impact loads imposed by the debris flow that caused this magnitude of strain.



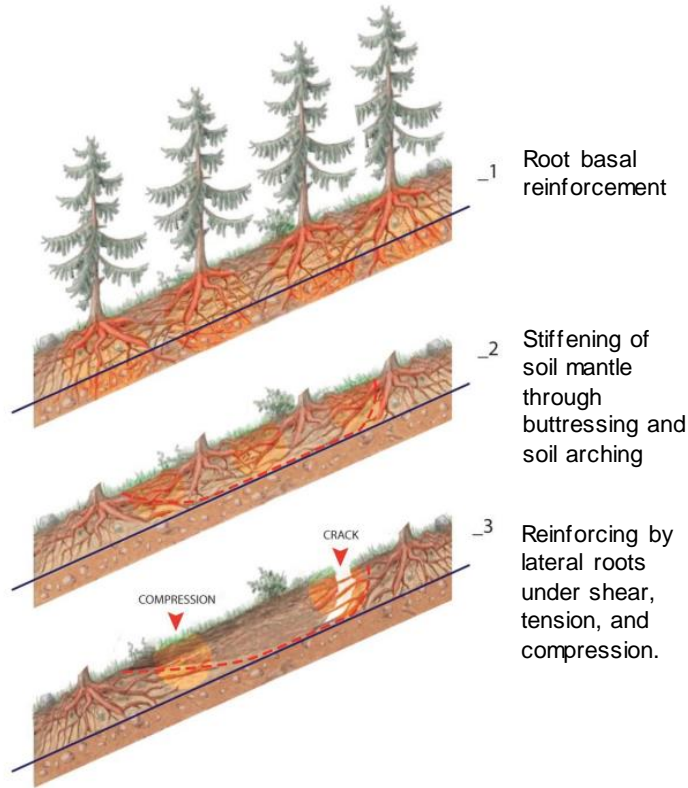
Dixie Fire, June 12th, 2022,
Debris Flow that blocked Hwy 70

Post-fire debris flows

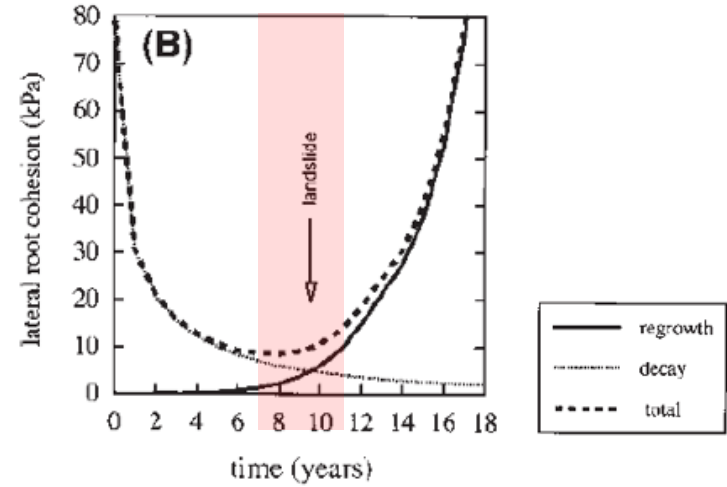
- Most common in the first 2 years after fire, but can occur 2-5 years after fire.
- Commonly triggered by heavy rainfall over short durations.
- Less sensitive to antecedent soil moisture.
- Can move faster than floods in steep, confined channel reaches and slower than floods in low-gradient channel reaches.
- Can dramatically alter channel morphology in a short period of time through scour, avulsion, and deposition.



Post-fire Landslide

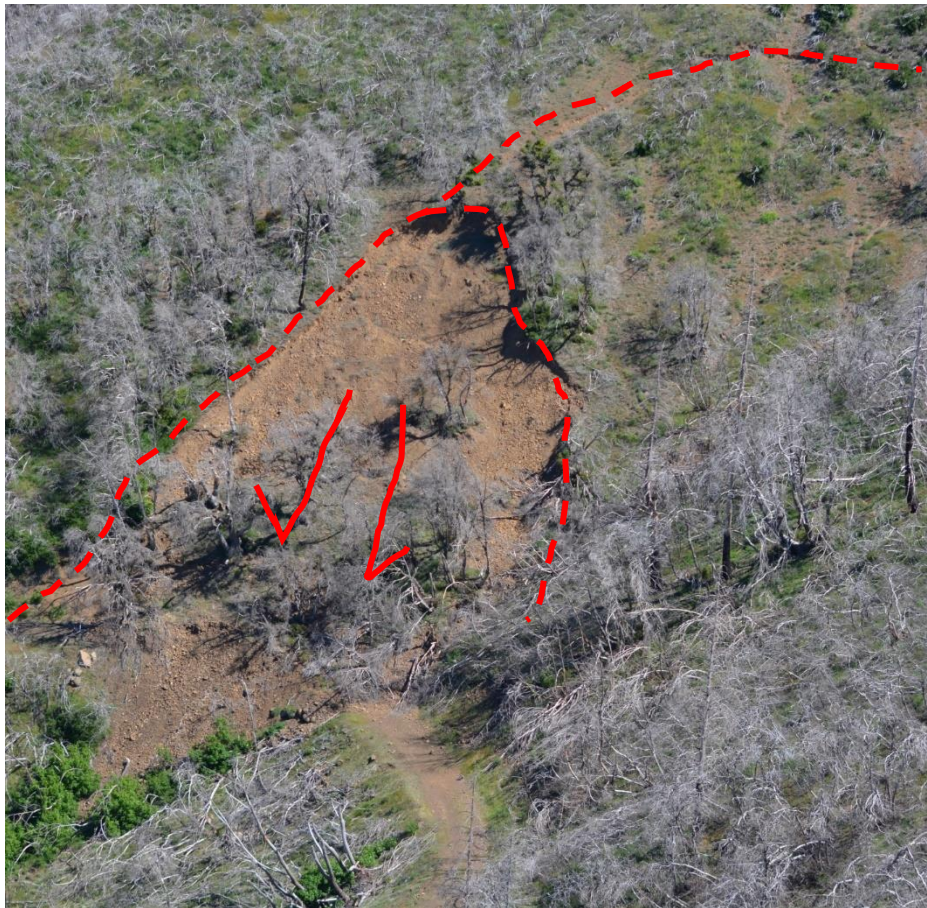


Three types of mechanisms of root reinforcement (adapted from Giadrossich et al, 2013)

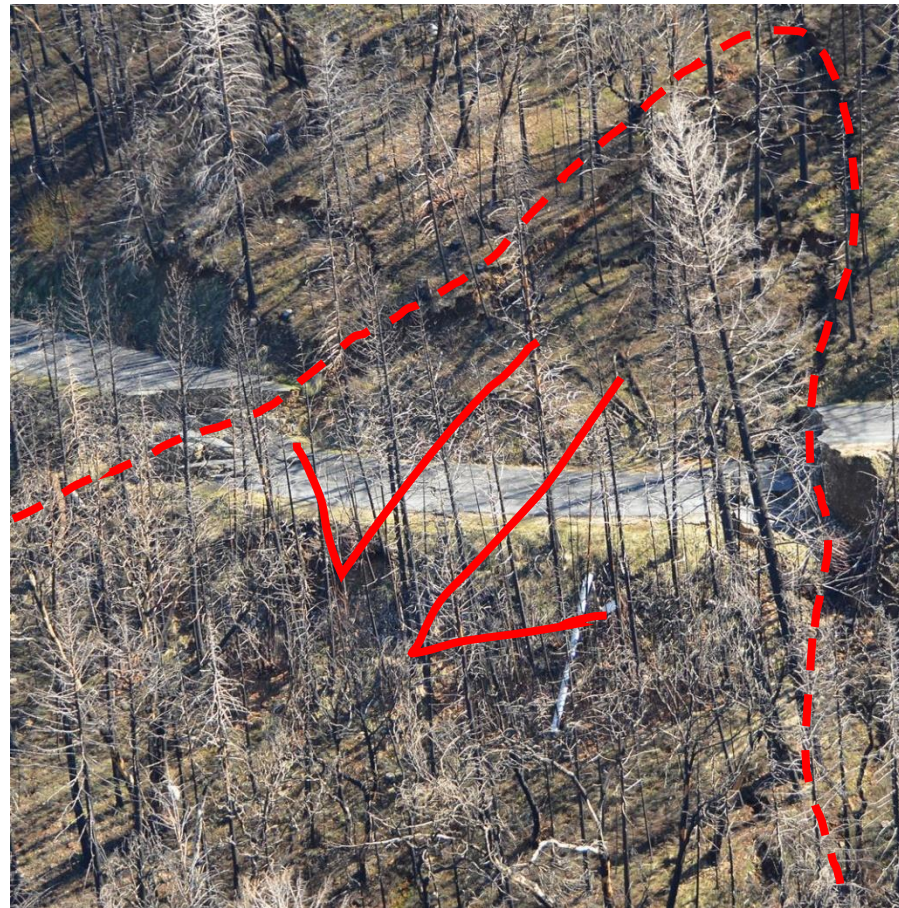


Plot of lateral root cohesion vs time since harvest (adapted from Roering, 2001)

- Minimum root cohesion reached ~7-11 years post fire for Oregon conifer forests and ~3-6 years for southern California chaparral.



2017 translational landslide within 2012 Bagley Fire, CA



2017 translational landslide within 2013 King Fire, CA

Direct impacts of combustible structures

- Structures that are flammable will be damaged.
- Wood soldier pile walls
- Geosynthetic wrapped-face walls
- Wood bridge decks
- Galvanized metal (less of a concern, but still degrades more rapidly after being subjected to high heat)



Table 2-22. Physical Resistance of Various Pipe Types (Zhao et al. 1998)

Type of Resistance	Pipe			
	Concrete	Corrugated Steel	HDPE	PVC
Abrasion resistance	Low	Low	High, 2 and 3 times more resistant than PVC and steel pipe, respectively	High
Fire resistance	High	Most coatings used for corrosion protection are flammable	Flammable	Flammable with lower flammability rating than HDPE
Freeze-thaw resistance	See note	—	—	—

Note: It is not certain whether concrete culvert pipe is subjected to freeze-thaw damage. Testing is required to clarify this.

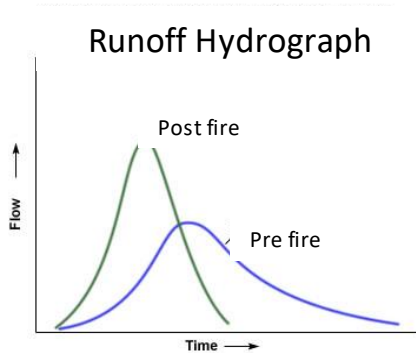


Source: Caltrans

- Caltrans, and many other state DOTs, discourage the use of plastic pipe (HDPE and PVC) and bituminous or plastic coatings in fire hazard areas.
- Recommends consideration of nonflammable materials or modification of the plastic pipe in situations where high fire potential conditions exist.

Post-fire Flood Flow Models

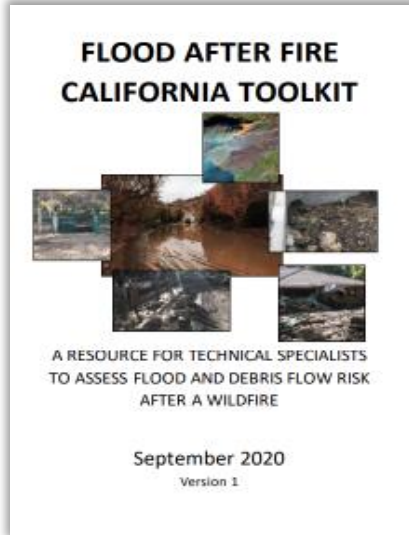
- Rainfall/runoff modeling (Curve Number method; Green-Ampt/Kinematic Wave method) (Kenoshita et al. 2014)
- Increasing the runoff coefficient, C , and decreasing the time of concentration, T_c , (Rational method; Moody, 2012; Kean et al. 2016).
- Applying a flow multiplier to pre-fire flows based on empirical data related to soil burn severity to account for increased runoff and sediment bulking



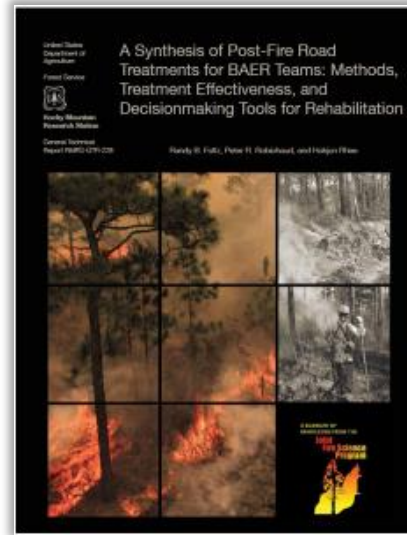
Return Interval	Typical factors
2-year	1.5 to 10
5-year	1.5 to 8
10-year	1.3 to 6
25- to 50-year	1.1 to 5
100-year	1.1 to 3

Recent research indicates a potential for higher multipliers

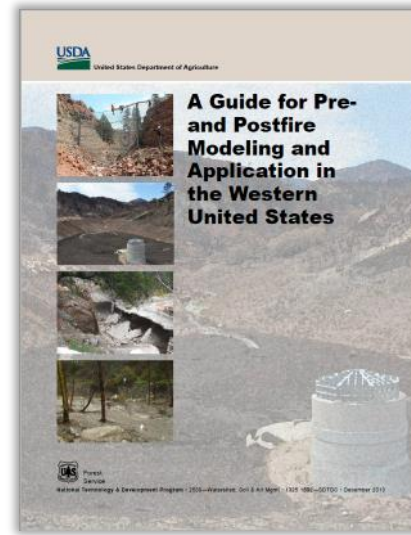
Post-Fire Flood Flow References



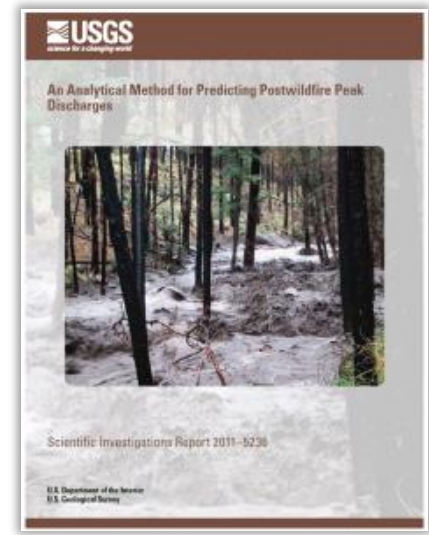
<https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Silver-Jackets/State-Teams/California/Flood-After-Fire-California-Toolkit/>



Foltz et al. 2008




Kenoshita et al. 2014



Moody, 2012

Primary Models Used for Post-fire Debris-Flow Hazards



Updated Logistic Regression Equations for the Calculation of Post-Fire Debris-Flow Likelihood in the Western United States

By Dennis M. Staley, Jacquelyn A. Negri, Jason W. Kean, Jayme M. Luber, Anne C. Tillery, and Ann M. Youberg

Open-File Report 2016–1106

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/ofr20161106>

(Staley et al., 2016)

Engineering Geology (2014) 6–12

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/enggeo

Empirical models for predicting volumes of sediment deposited by debris flows and sediment-laden floods in the transverse ranges of southern California

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Debris flows and sediment-laden floods in the Transverse Ranges of southern California pose severe hazards to nearby communities and infrastructure. Frequent wildfires in these hillsides and the increase in likelihood of these hazardous events, due to increased urban growth, commensurate and infrastructure from the impacts of distributed fires and sediment-laden flood flow, also provide a need for data for volumes of sediment deposited by debris flows. In this study, we supplement existing data for the volumes of sediment deposited at watershed outlets with newly acquired data to develop empirical models for predicting volumes of sediment deposited by water-laden floods in the Transverse Ranges of California. The sediment volume data represent a broad range of conditions and locations, but they are not from the same location, California. The measured volumes of sediment were used to develop empirical models, and regression coefficients were analyzed using stepwise linear regression to develop two models. A “best fit model” was developed for predicting volumes of sediment deposited by debris flows and sediment-laden floods at the watershed outlet from a database of volumes of sediment deposited by a combination of debris flows and sediment-laden floods with no fire. An “emergency model” was developed for predicting volumes of sediment deposited by debris flows and sediment-laden floods with no fire in 2012. These two models were used to independently validate the long-term model. Ten of these volumes of sediment were deposited by debris flows within two years of a fire and were used to validate the emergency assessment model. The models were validated by comparing predicted sediment volumes of sediment. These validations were also performed for previously developed models and identify that the models developed in this paper provide volumes of sediment for better watershed management to previously developed models.

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1. Introduction and background

Conditions in southern California vary both the wildland-urban interface (WUI) (Gardner et al., 2002) and the fire-prone regions (Gardner and Williams, 1978). Cities, communities, highways, and other infrastructure are within close proximity to the steep mountains of the Transverse Ranges. These mountains are frequently burned by severe wildfires during the late summer and fall, and by significant rainfall during the winter (Auld and Schick, 1985). The combination of steep watersheds, heavy rainfall, and frequent wildfires combine to pose a continuous threat of sediment-laden floods and debris flows to communities throughout southern California (Sant and Williams, 1978). Debris flows following a fire may be produced by a flow of sediment which is affected by direct communication or by nearby evenly burned watersheds causing a region-wide natural disaster. This combination of conditions has also been observed throughout the intermountain western U.S. (Cannon et al., 2010), and worldwide (e.g., Nyman et al., 2011; Garcia-Ruiz et al., 2013). In this study, we develop new empirical models for predicting post-fire volumes of sediment deposited by debris flows and sediment-laden floods at the outlets of small watersheds (defined as being less than 100 km² in area) located in southern California. The models are developed from newly acquired and existing data for volumes of sediment, watershed morphology, rainfall characteristics, and soil engineering properties. A number of research studies have examined how BFI (e.g., Carter and Swane, 2002; Anderson et al., 2004; Ponce and Vogel, 2005), climate change (e.g., Inman and Jenkins, 1999) and fire (e.g., Pochanin et al., 1981; Kiefer et al., 1987; Cannon and Gartner, 2003),

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.enggeo.2014.04.008>

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(Gartner et al., 2014)

USGS Post Wildfire Debris Flow Hazard Assessment Viewer

Select Fire Year
View All Fire Years

Select by Fire
View All

State Filter
View All

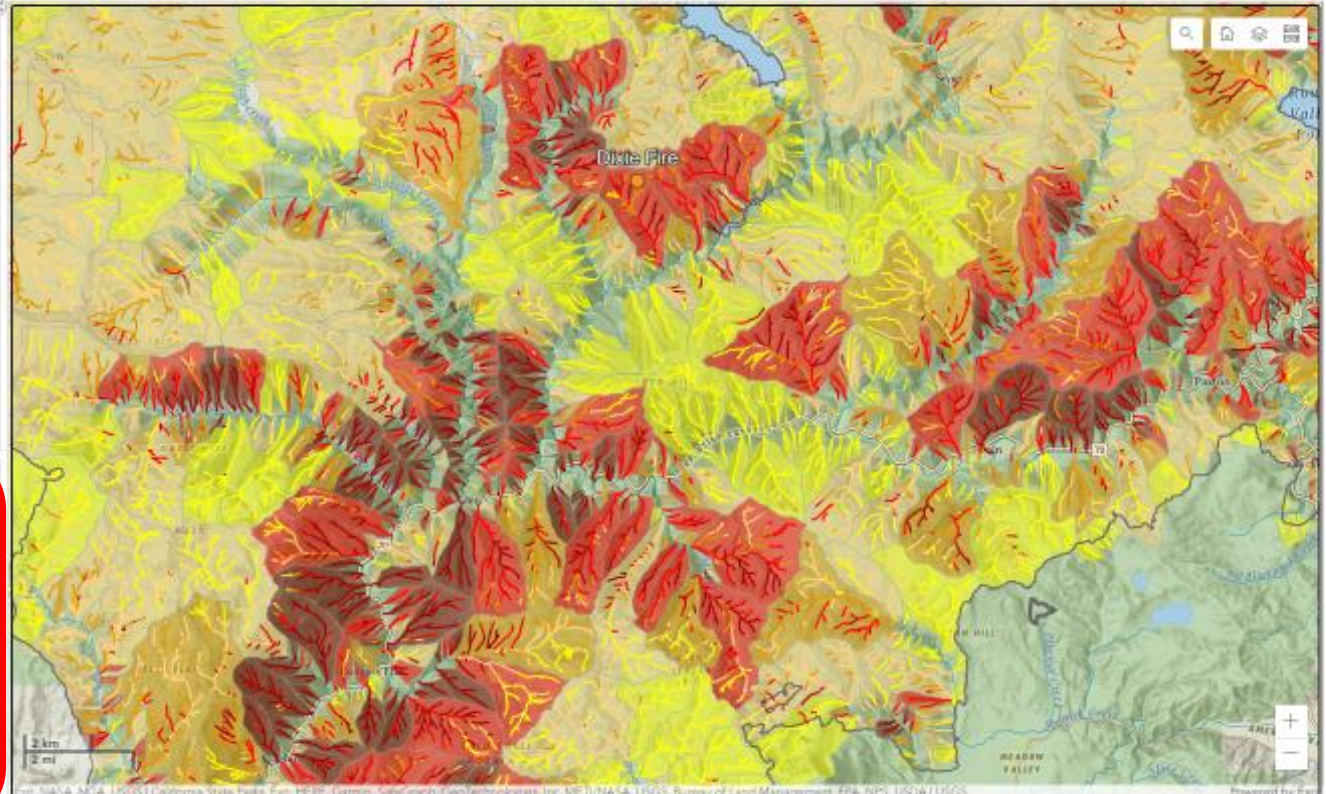
[Scientific Background](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Assessment Requirements](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Feedback](#)

Fires Within Map Extent

(Select to View Details)

Dixie Fire

Lassen and Plumas National Forests, CA
Start Date: July 12, 2021.



EXPLANATION

Response to a design storm with a peak 15-minute intensity of 24 mm/h

Fire Location

Fire Year

- 2022 (Red circle)
- 2021 (Orange circle)
- 2020 (Yellow circle)
- 2019 and older (White circle)

Fire Perimeter (Red outline)

Likelihood

- 0-20% (Yellow)
- 20-40% (Light Orange)
- 40-60% (Orange)
- 60-80% (Red-Orange)
- 80-100% (Dark Red)

Volume (m³)

- <1,000 (Yellow)
- 1,000-10,000 (Light Orange)
- 10,000-100,000 (Orange)
- >100,000 (Dark Orange)

Combined Hazard

- Low (Yellow)
- Moderate (Orange)
- High (Red)

Download Hazard Assessment Results

Dixie

Hazard Assessment Data

Geodatabase Download Link	View
Shapefile Download Link	View
Hazard Assessment PDF	View

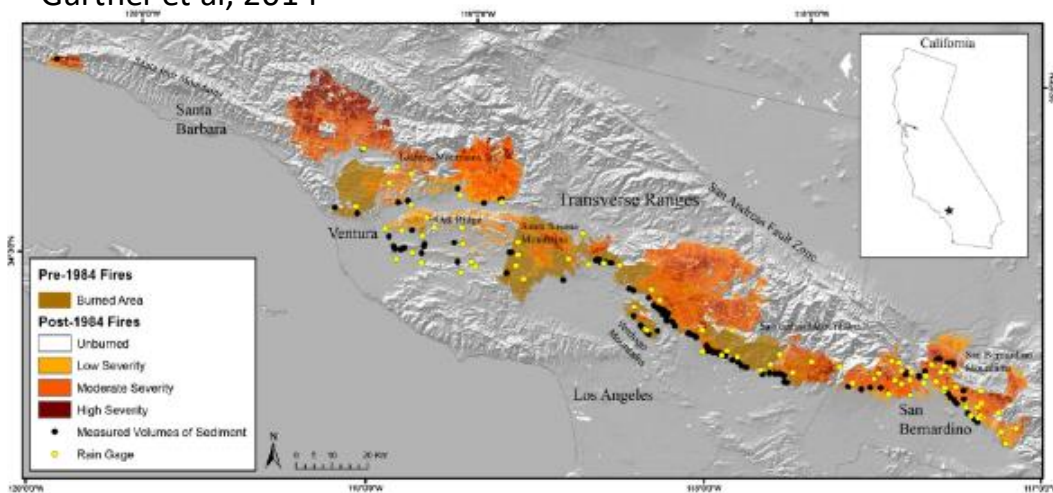
Fire Properties

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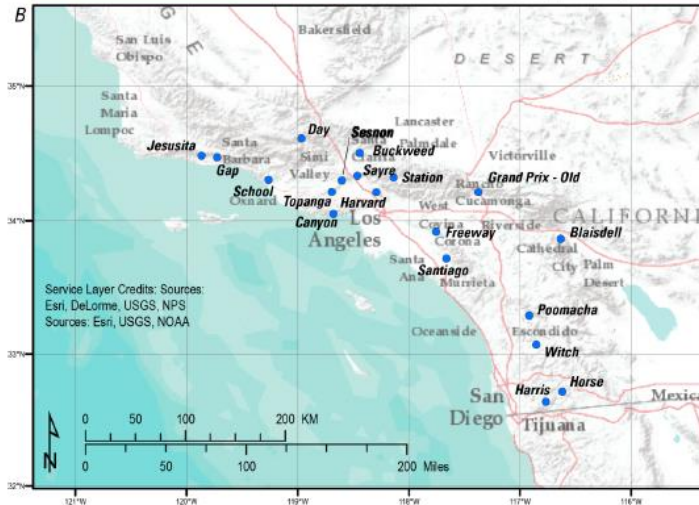
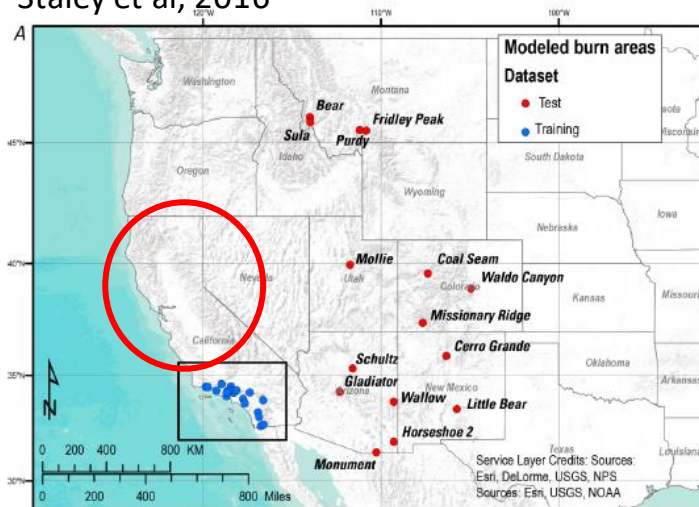
Model Conundrum:

- Relying on the models in areas outside of southern California?

Gartner et al, 2014

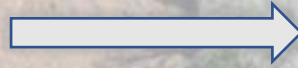


Staley et al, 2016



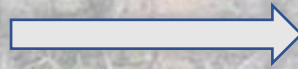
Post-fire Landslide Models

Empirical Models



- Antecedent rainfall
- Rainfall intensity
- Rainfall duration
- Slope morphologic, geologic, ecologic parameters
- Probability
- Examples: logistic regression models

Physics-based Models



- Limit equilibrium models
- Topography
- Soil depth
- Porewater pressures
- Geotechnical parameters of soil
- Examples: SHALSTAB, SINMAP, TRIGRS

Common Post-Fire Mitigations

Common Post-fire Response:

- Plugged and overtopped culverts
- Flow diversion/avulsion associated with crossings and poorly-drained roads
- Burnt Structures

Common Treatments:

- Monitor and maintain
- Revise culvert design
- Deflection structures
- Debris racks and nets
- Rock-armored crossings
- Low-water crossings
- Free-spanning crossings
- Non-flammable structures

Monitoring and Maintain

- Early warning
- Perform frequent monitoring during and after storm events
- Maintain as needed to keep road and crossing structures free-draining.





Revise culverted crossing design

- Increase the size of culvert.
- Reduce the number of barrels - one large culvert performs better than multiple smaller culverts.
- Use more efficient inlet structures (e.g. non-projecting, mitered, flared inlet, headwall, etc.)
- Use inlet structures with redundant entrances (e.g. standpipe)

Deflection structures

- Commonly used to direct flow away from critical infrastructure, or direct overtopping flows back into the channels.
- Common types of deflections structures include:
 - K rail
 - HESCO barrier
 - Muscle wall
 - Earthen berm



Debris racks (aka debris fences, grizzlies, straining structures)

- Often used to prevent culvert openings and bridge clearances from becoming plugged.
- Design considerations include the design magnitude or volume of flow, likely flow path, size and gradation of the debris, potential impact forces, and probable storage angle.
- Must be designed to allow normal water flow and stream bedload to pass, but restrain oversized material and debris.
- General rule of thumb for the design of the opening is 1.5 to 2 times the maximum diameter of the boulders (VanDine, 1996)

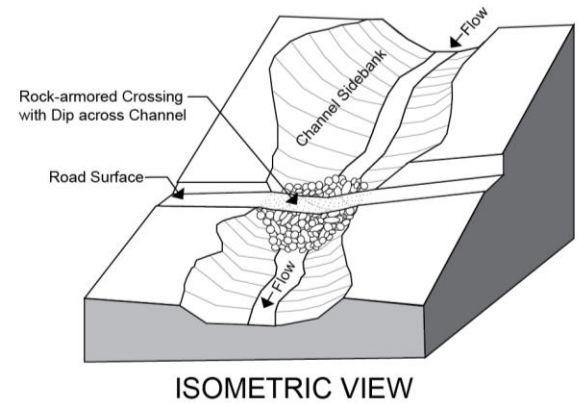
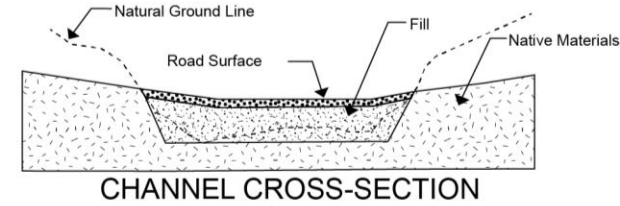
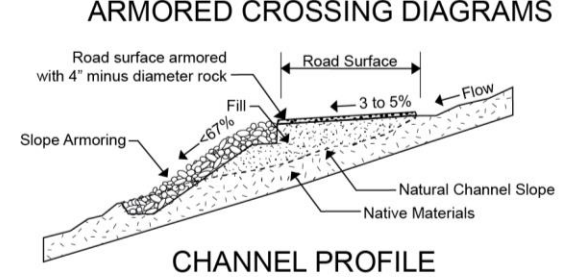


Images: J. Grim, NRCS, before and after 1st major post-fire winter storm event (1993 Kinneloa Fire in S. CA)



Lessons Learned Debris Racks

- Must be constructed to withstand anticipated hydrodynamic loads plus loads imposed by equipment during cleaning.
- Must be located to maximize the volume of material that can be stored before being overtopped.
- Must be installed where access for heavy equipment is provided for maintenance.
- Debris nets generally plug with small-diameter material that would otherwise be able to pass.
- Debris nets should be placed off the channel bed to allow normal flows to pass, but not so high that they won't restrain the boulder front of passing debris flows.
- Streambanks along the margins of debris racks should be armored against concentrated flows that can develop as debris builds in front of the structure.



Rock-armored Crossings

- Commonly used on forest roads
- Rock armor is appropriately sized, keyed, and sufficiently thick to resist anticipated flows.
- Running surface is constructed with sacrificial, small-diameter rock or articulated concrete block mats.



JUL 15 2015

JUL 15 2015

JUL 15 2015

Lessons Learned

Rock-armored crossings

- Inspect the shape of the road prism and the outfall structure to determine if it is adequately sized to accommodate the estimated flood flow, including debris and sediment loads.
- Inspect the proposed rock size and placement detailing (i.e. keyway, thickness, and lateral extent) and determine if it would resist mobilization.
- To mitigate winnowing of fines through coarse outside layer of rock, place either an inner layer of well-graded rock (backing filter layer) or geotextile filter fabric.

Low-water crossings



Free-spanning crossings

- Installing a free-spanning structure with adequate capacity to convey the anticipated flows plus associated debris can be the most straightforward solution.
- Initial costs of construction can be high, but the cost/benefit ratio often improves with time.



A photograph of a wooden bridge crossing a stream in a forest. The bridge is made of dark wood and has some markings on it. The stream is rocky and has some white water rapids. The background is a dense forest of tall trees.

Lessons Learned

Free-spanning crossings

- Must be adequately sized to accommodate the estimated flood flow, including debris and sediment.
- Scour potential should be closely assessed and mitigated.
- Changing cross-sectional area beneath structure due to aggradation and scour should be considered in the hydraulic design.
- Impact loads should be considered.

Summary

- Post-fire hazards generally include increased flow, debris and sediment loading, rockfall, and landslide activity.
- Current models used to predict post-fire hazards require considerable professional judgment before applying.
- Road crossing structures are at the highest threat, particularly culverted crossings due to sediment and debris plugging.
- Solutions to mitigate post-fire impacts range in cost and complexity and require careful consideration before implementing. Examples include:
 - Monitoring and maintenance
 - Deflection structures
 - Upsizing culverts
 - Debris barriers
 - Consider free-spanning or low-water crossing structures in areas prone to excessive post-fire runoff and sediment and debris loading.

Questions?



Today's presenters



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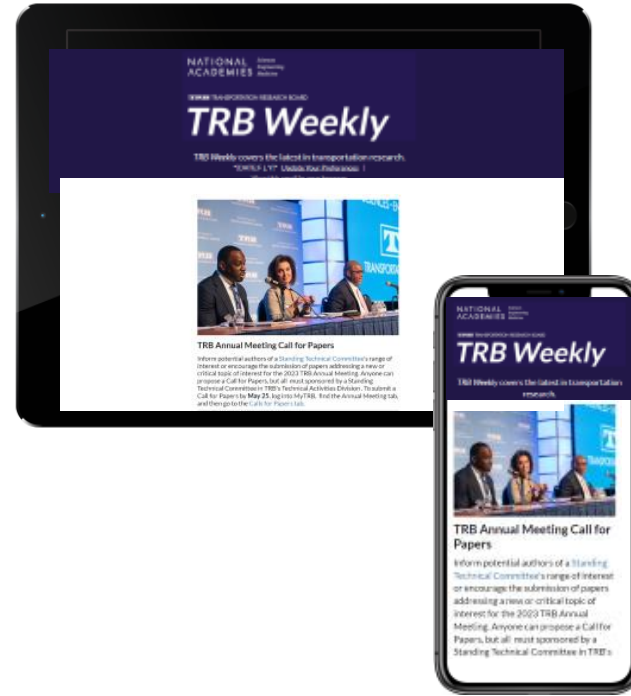
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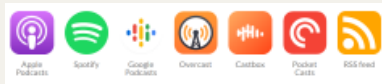
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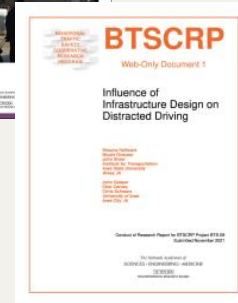
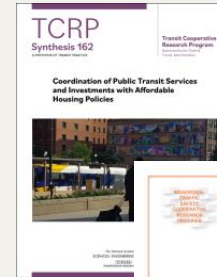
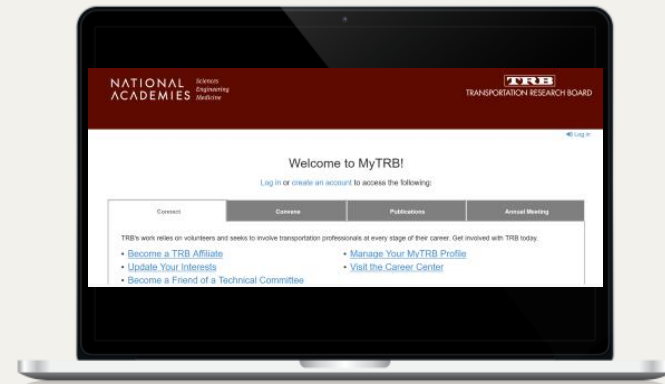
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