



How to install

STRAW WATTLES



to protect our creeks, reservoirs, and fish

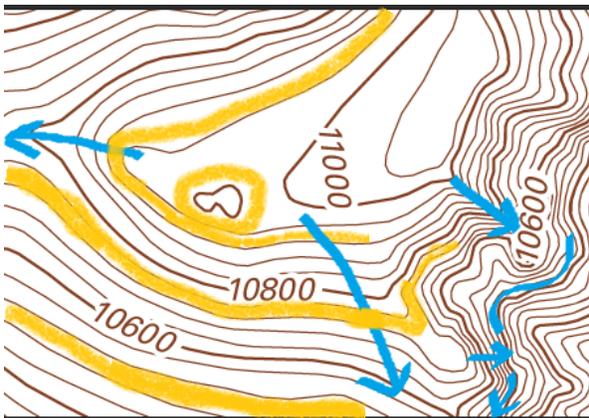
By Butte County Resource Conservation District.

Visit www.bccrd.org or email us: bccrd@carcd.org

STEP 1: PLAN

DO:

Do install wattles **along contours**. They should run **perpendicular** to how water flows.

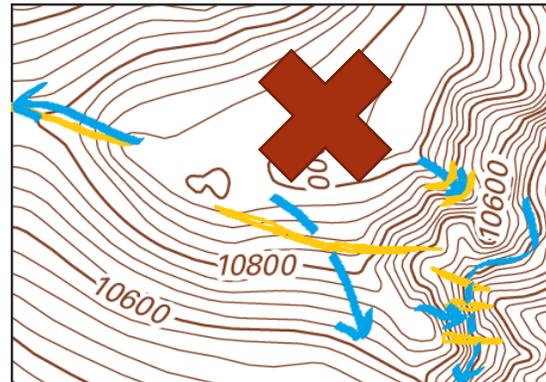


Do install straw wattles in a closed ring around any burned structure.



DON'T:

Don't place wattles running downhill. And **don't** block creek channels: Wattles are for **slowing sheet flows**, not blocking streams.



Don't place wattles where they could easily come loose and block culverts or grates.



STEP 2: TRENCH

DO:

Use a shovel to make a shallow (2-3") trench, just wide enough for the wattle. Pile the extra dirt on the uphill side. Trenching gives your wattles better ground contact and helps them stop more sediment.

STEP 3: STAKE

DO:

Do overlap wattle ends horizontally. Always stake wattles, **driving the stakes directly through the wattle**. Use 1 stake per 4 feet.



Do stake wattles along contours. The best place for wattles is often at the top of a slope (just above where it gets steeper).



On long bare slopes, place a series of wattles. If it's nearly flat, space wattles every 20 feet. For steep slopes (2:1), space them every 10'. For moderate slopes, every 15' is fine. **Extremely steep slopes** don't benefit from wattles. Instead of trying to stop the flow halfway down a steep slope, try to stop it up top on the ridge.

Pro tip: If your wattles "overtop" with sediment this winter, simply place a second ring of wattles around the first, just downhill. In the spring, wattles and the toxins they trapped can be removed along with other debris.

DON'T:

Don't butt wattles end-to-end w/ no overlap.



Don't place wattles across creeks or ravines. This might work some places but here in Butte County it usually does not. ☹️



Finally, **don't** overlap wattles vertically. It just provides a perfect channel for water to sneak underneath!