

after the fire

Post Fire Restoration

Dos and Don'ts

DO: Gather as much information as possible from Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service, local fire district officials, Fire Safe Councils, NRCS, RCD, and/or local fire restoration consultants regarding reducing fire hazard and making your property fire safe when planning your property restoration.

DO: Hire and/or consult with licensed contractors, preferably ones that are certified and/or experience in soil erosion and sediment control, for design and installation assistance of vegetative and structural measures needed to restore slopes, soils, proper drainage conditions and landscape.

DO: Coordinate and plan restoration efforts with neighbors and/or road and neighborhood associations.

DO: Monitor and maintain all existing and planned erosion, sediment, and drainage control measures, including vegetative treatments, before during and after all future rainfall events. Correct deficiencies as soon as possible.

Note: One of the main reasons why recommended treatment practices fail following installation is the lack of long term maintenance by the landowner or responsible party.

DO: Re-plant damaged landscapes with drought tolerant, fire retardant native plants with re-sprouting ability. Use planting stock and/or seed that are native to the area and is from a locally collected source. Consult with NRCS/RCD for a list of plants to consider.

DON'T: Place loose debris, prunings, and discarded fire-damaged vegetation in gullies, drainage swales or watercourses, over stream banks, etc. in an attempt to protect bare soil. Piles of brush may dislodge if in contact with concentrated runoff or stream flows causing other problems.

Note: Removed brush can sometimes be used as mulch if chipped or spread thinly over the critical soil areas.

DON'T: Plant Erosion Control Seed Mixes. These mixes are likely to contain non-native mix of grasses and legumes or California natives that are indigenous to other areas of the state and/or are not intended for wild land or fire damaged soil/slope restoration. Don't plant other non-native, invasive plants or grasses, such as annual ryegrass as well.

DON'T: Use materials such as broken asphalt or concrete, inorganic debris or other objects as an emergency or permanent erosion control measure, especially if these materials can come in contact with runoff water, natural drainages and stream courses.

Note: In some cases, rock and broken concrete can be used as velocity dissipaters and placed at the outlets of road culverts or other drains to protect the soil from erosion and washout, provided these dissipaters are designed by an appropriate professional

DON'T: Do anything. This may be the best solution on some properties. Doing nothing will allow nature and time to heal soil and vegetation damage naturally, especially in wild land and other natural areas.

Visit these websites for additional Best Management Practice Guidance:

Western Shasta Resource Conservation District: www.westernshastarc.org/Post-Fire-Recovery/

City of Redding / Shasta County: www.shastareddingrecovers.org