

New Categorical Exclusions for Soil and Water Restoration Natural & Human-Caused Event Restoration

Project: 2004 Storm Recovery Stream Rehabilitation Unit: National Forests in North Carolina

What Were The Restoration Needs?

In September of 2004, three hurricanes moved through western North Carolina producing intense rainstorms that resulted in landslides and stream flooding. Steep vertical banks on several streams were either highly eroded or failed all together resulting in annual stream bank erosion rates 10 times above natural rates.

What Activities Were Implemented?

The project stabilized stream channels using natural channel design techniques that work with the channel's natural flow patterns. Twelve sites were identified that required the construction of boulder and/or log structures in three separate river basins.

What Are The Benefits of Restoration?

The restoration actions were designed to restore the storm damaged stream reaches to a healthy stream ecosystem (including aquatic and riparian areas) as well as protect facilities and State designated existing uses of water, such as recreation and aquatic organism propagation. The stabilization of these sites, using natural channel design techniques, not only protected Forest Service facilities and investments, but also improved water quality, aquatic habitat diversity.

Who Were The Partners?

The National Forests of North Carolina designed each project with assistance from professionals in the field of stream restoration from North Carolina State University, private consultants, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Before:



After:

