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[USDA (Department of Agriculture) - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)] [loose]

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USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Emergency Watershed Protection - Naturally

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provides technical and financial assistance for emergency storm repairs. Emergency watershed protection measures reduce hazards to life and property from floods, drought, and excessive runoff or erosion caused by a natural occurrence. Recent flooding in Allegany and Garrett counties has created the need for such protection. The EWP program is providing NRCS with an opportunity to demonstrate innovative, cost effective and environmentally enhancing techniques for stream repair and restoration.

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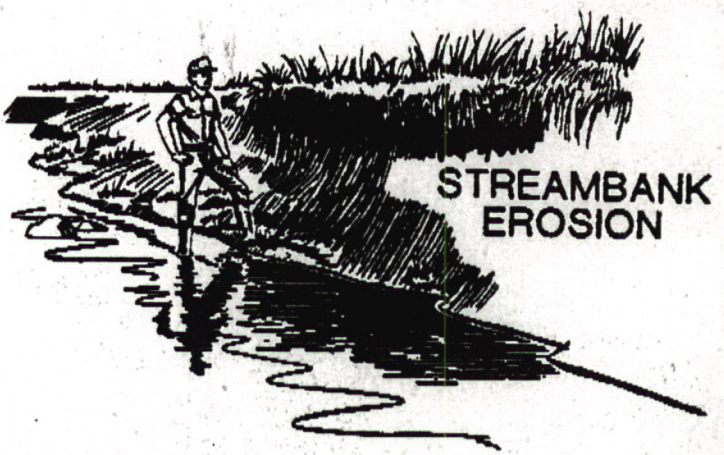
STRUCTURAL TECHNIQUES are rigid constructions, such as surface armoring, gravity retaining walls, and rock revetments.



The term bioengineering is new to most people. "Bio" means "mode of life or living organisms," while engineering means "the science by which the properties of matter and the sources of energy in nature are made useful to man in structures, machines, and products." Bioengineering is a concept in which living organisms, namely selected plants, are utilized to protect against a force of nature, namely erosion.

SOIL BIOENGINEERING combines biological elements with engineering design principles. Mechanical, biological, and ecological concepts are used to arrest and prevent shallow slope failures and erosion. Soil bioengineering utilizes live plant parts to provide soil reinforcement and prevent surface erosion.

In soil bioengineering systems, the plantings may play the major stabilization role immediately or may become the major structural component over time.

Live staking, live fascines, brushlayers, branchpacking, and live gully repair are soil bioengineering techniques. Bundles of stems or branches are used as initial and