



Gerber Legendary Blades

Streambank Stabilization Project

Portland, Oregon; Spring 2007



Problem

Major storms in the Pacific Northwest in 2006 caused flashy stream flow which eroded the banks of the stream undermining the parking lot foundation, parking lot asphalt surface and even put the 40' corporate sign in jeopardy.

Project background

Gerber Legendary Blades, now a division of Fiskar's, was built in the late 1970's near Portland, Oregon. The parking lot was built an adequate distance from the stream running through the property, and paved with asphalt. Continued development of impervious surfaces up-stream and expansion of Interstate 5 caused erosive conditions to worsen over the last decade. Then in 2006, the result of major storms and very serious rain events, ferocious stream flows were undermining the structure of the parking lot located next to the stream. Gerber attempted to repair the damage using several different methods, including soil lifts wrapped in geotextile. Back fill was found 10' down from previous efforts to protect the site. All efforts to repair the site failed and Gerber, a manufacturer of jack-knives for outdoorsman, needed an environmentally-correct long term solution.

Solution

Installation of Envirolok Vegetated Retaining Wall System, distributed and installed by Sunmark Environmental Services. Sunmark Environmental Services has a long history of working with native vegetation for erosion control, and is a Certified Installer of the Envirolok Vegetated Retaining Wall System



**Permits
Engineering**

Provided by PBS Environmental and KBH Consulting. PBS coordinated the environmentally-sensitive solution by fast-tracking emergency erosion control permits from Oregon Dept. of State Lands, US Army Corps of Engineers and Clean Water Services.

**Environmental
Review**

Gerber Facility Manager's reaction to the installed solution: "I can see why this will be a permanent solution compared to what was tried in the past. I love it!" Agency reaction: State of Oregon's Clean Water Services has since reduced Gerber inspection period from once a quarter to once a year and sampling from once a year to once every five years. Oregon Department of Transportation has also recognized a serious erosion problem on the Interstate 5 streambank side of the property and has retained PBS Environmental to expedite installation of the Envirolok Vegetated Retaining Wall System on the I-5 streambank side.

Project Fact Sheet

Customer:
Gerber Legendary Blades
14200 SW 72nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Engineering Provided By:

PBS Engineering & Environmental
1310 Main Street
Vancouver, Washington 98660

Contractor Installer:
Sunmark Environmental Services, LLC
2255 NE 194th Ave
Portland OR 97230

KBH Consulting, Inc.
161 Dunbar Way
Suite 110
Mahtomedi, Minnesota 55115

Regulatory/Permitting Agencies:

State of Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
State of Oregon Department of Transportation
Clean Water Services
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Oregon Dept of State Lands



Contact information provided on request