

# after the fire

## Top Ten List

### What Property Owners Should Consider if Wildfire Has Caused Damage to Their Property

- #10 Get help from NRCS or other professionals that are certified, registered and/or licensed before selecting and installing treatment measures.
- #9 Respect the laws of nature. Natural recovery can be quicker with longer term benefits when you design with nature. Remember, when you control water (runoff) you control nature which can have disastrous consequences.
- #8 One size does not fit all. Every property has unique features and circumstances requiring a site specific evaluation and corresponding treatment. One more reason not to do what your neighbor is doing, besides they might not know what they are doing.
- #7 Minimize soil/slope disturbances. Ash, leaf drop, down trees and remnant burned vegetation all play a role in protecting the soil and slopes following wildfire.
- #6 Look beyond your property lines and work with thy neighbor. Runoff, erosion & debris flows have no respect for property boundaries.
- #5 Prevent access roads from going to ruin. Roads will require more maintenance in the first few winters following wildfire. Many road drainage facilities may need to be replaced, re-located, and/or re-sized depending on the nature of fire damage to the surrounding landscape and watershed. Culvert inlet and outlet controls will be critical.
- #4 Emergency/temporary measures typically have a high risk of failure. They can cause more serious problems if and when they fail and often provide a false sense of security.
- #3 Remember the M&Ms. All existing and any planned treatment measures require regular and perhaps constant monitoring and maintenance especially throughout the first two winters following wildfire.
- #2 Say “No” to Yes. Sometimes doing nothing or doing less is best. Give nature a chance to do her job.
- #1 There is NO silver bullet. When it’s not safe, it’s not safe. Have an emergency plan and get out of your home and leave your property when it’s not safe.

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This list was developed by Rich Casale from his 4+decades of experience assisting landowners after wildfire as a natural resource specialist and Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist (#3) working for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.