



SBIR

Success Stories

WOOD-BASED EROSION CONTROL MATERIAL

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Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

INNOVATION

A wood-based erosion control material (WoodStraw™) that is weed-free, long-lasting, and with superior performance to agricultural straw in watersheds, forestlands, and road construction.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Proprietary WoodStraw™ machinery uses one-third the energy of similar manufacturing processes.
- ▶ Field trials in California and Washington showed WoodStraw™ reduced erosion by more than 98%.
- ▶ WoodStraw™ outperformed all other mulch treatments in a USDA Forest Service field experiment in Colorado.
- ▶ Baled WoodStraw™ can be spread by hand, straw blower, or helicopter.



WOODSTRAW™ BEING APPLIED FOR EROSION CONTROL

COMMERCIALIZATION

- ▶ Partners include raw materials suppliers, distributors and applicators.
- ▶ Within six months of completing SBIR project, 92.5 tons of WoodStraw™ mulch had been sold to eight customers.
- ▶ Veneer mills in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California have shown an interest in becoming raw material suppliers.

IMPACTS

- ▶ WoodStraw™ production supports rural jobs and improves independent veneer mill sustainability through value-added outlet for low grade veneer.
- ▶ WoodStraw™ products offer stable, year-around availability at a cost competitive with alternative products.
- ▶ For the first time, erosion control specialists working in watersheds, forestlands, and road construction have an ecologically compatible erosion control material.

SBIR COMPETITIVELY AWARDS SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF SOLVING IMPORTANT AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

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