

good road design

carefully plan and create your roadways

Roads are the number one source of sediment in the Mattole River, and a major cause of salmon habitat degradation. It is important to thoroughly consider how your road will move water during storms. Careful design will maximize the road's life, thus protecting the investment that you made in constructing it, and minimizing the road's impact on the local landscape.

Evaluate. Evaluate the physical environment to determine best location for the road. This will help ensure that your road will last for the longest time possible, as well as minimize impacts on the surrounding areas. Avoid placing your road near a wetland, or crossing a stream. Have a vegetation buffer zone between road and stream to serve as a filter for runoff. Ensure proper drainage to protect your road from gullyng, washouts, and expensive repairs.

Plan carefully. Putting enough thought and planning into your road can minimize impacts on environment and help reduce future maintenance costs. Avoid designing roads that run along creeks or over slumping landslides and other unstable ground. If using a culvert, make sure that it is big enough for your needs, and at the proper depth and angle. If the road needs to cross a stream, it is important to make sure that the passage is adequate for winter flows. (Refer to Sediment Series Issue #3 on Road Surface Design and Issue # 7 on Better Culverts for more tips on road design.)

Mimimize construction. Roads are expensive to build, maintain, and are prone to failure. It is beneficial for you, and your local environment, to minimize the number of roads constructed in your watershed. To avoid unnecessary roads, plan with neighbors to network existing roads and open old roads when possible unless these roads would cause more severe erosion problems than building a new road elsewhere.

Get help. If you are planning a new road, or even redesigning an old one, be sure to seek the help of trained professionals familiar with the work involved. Across is a list of local contractors who are available for consultation.

BEFORE YOU CREATE A NEW ROAD, consider safety, cost, and intended use. This includes size of traveling vehicles, frequency of use, location, and any regulatory constraints. Is there an old road that can be opened and perhaps repaired? Is there a better place for this new road to be or a safer path for it to follow? Plan your new road carefully.



local road consultants -----

Chris Ciullo
(707) 923-2004

Chompers Cook
(707) 629-3428

Raymond Etter
(707) 629-3420

Jay Franke
Twin Parks Company
(707) 822-1728

Richard French
(707) 986-7552

Doug Huajardo
(707) 986-7100

McCullough Construction
(707) 499-1818

Rob McKee
Whitethorn Construction
(707) 986-7412

Sterling McWhorter
(707) 629-3307

Timothy Metz
Restoration Forestry
(707) 496-0322

Greg Mullins
(707) 986-7734

Jon Neil
(707) 923-5268

Roger Safier
Safier Construction Co.
629-3373

Robert Schinn
Honeydew Store
(707) 629-3310

Matt Smith
(707) 845-2097

Dennis Wendt
Wendt Construction
(707) 725-5641

Wilcox Enterprises
(707) 986-7486



Mattole Restoration Council
<http://www.mattole.org>

Whitethorn Office (707) 986-1078
Petrolia Office (707) 629-3514

PO Box 223 / Whitethorn, CA 95589
PO Box 160 / Petrolia, CA 95558

upriver@mattole.org
mrc@mattole.org