

Caitlyn Lancaster & Johnny Cordova  
*Erosion Explosion*

I watched the news about the fires in Colorado Springs. The news caster said that after the fires there will be bare land that will cause landslides and erosion of the soil. I thought about how the people who live in this area and how they will protect their land and their property from erosion and other natural forces that could cause more damage.

Therefore, the purpose of this experiment was to figure out what the best way to protect the land and the soil from erosion after a fire devastates the landscape. We devised a plan to test two landscape designs and a controlled variable of unprotected. The two other landscape designs were straw wattle and the terrace designs. We came up with the hypothesis that the straw wattle would protect the slope the best from soil erosion.

The experiment included designing an erosion box. The box had three compartments where we tested the three types of landscapes. The three compartments had the same amount and type of soil. We poured two quarts of water into each compartment. We measured the amount of eroded soil in tablespoons for each trial.

Based on our data, our hypothesis was correct. The straw wattle had less erosion than the other designs. The straw wattle prevented the soil from passing through and washing away.

Our conclusion is that the best way to protect our soil after a fire is to put down layers of straw wattle.