



Is Enviro-Span amenable to installation in wet weather and/or saturated soils, or otherwise detrimental conditions?

The answer is an unequivocal yes and in significant ways as follows:

1. There are at least three significant reasons why Enviro-Span can be installed during the worst conditions of wet weather and/or saturated soils. The first is that no soil disturbance is required in order to install it. For many installations using Enviro-Span, you would simply lay down your log or pipe footing on either side of the stream, assemble the modules on it and then place the fill on it. The bulk of problems created during installation of traditional culverts and arches are caused by the disturbance of the native soil prism. In saturated soils, the application of force by the heavy equipment causes liquefaction and subsequent uncontrollable soil flow. Once this occurs, there is nothing that can be done to salvage the situation until the site dries out sufficiently to manage the soil again. Most resource road builders have experienced this phenomenon many times. Meanwhile, the damage is done if you are working on a fish bearing or contributing stream. With Enviro-Span you completely eliminate the soil disturbance step and lay the installation on top of the undisturbed stream bank. In this way, the crossings can be installed in advance of road construction so that equipment can move more freely when the road building phase starts and also to save time during short operating windows.
2. Another important feature that allows installation of Enviro-Span during periods of wet weather and soil saturation is that no heavy equipment or large trucks are required to get the modules to the installation site. Enviro-Span can be hauled out to a site with very low disturbance equipment as small as quad ATVs and trailers with high flotation off road tires. The modules can be loaded and off-loaded by hand. This means that the Enviro-Span crossings can be delivered to a site at virtually any time of the year without creating any disturbance.
3. Additionally, because Enviro-Span can follow the natural curve of a stream, no disturbance of the stream bank is required for re-alignment of the channel. Again, no disturbance is required because Enviro-Span is designed to work with the stream instead of forcing the stream to work with the crossing.

About the author: Ron W. Hammerstedt, B.Sc.F., RPF. has been a Registered Professional Forester for the past 30 years. His career has been characterized by an unconventional and very successful approach to natural resource stewardship that has led to award winning innovations and operational improvements in large scale forest management systems.



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