



*Vegetated Retaining Walls from Agrecol®*

# Gerber Legendary Blades

Streambank Stabilization Project

Portland, Oregon; Spring 2007



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**Problem** Major storms in the Pacific Northwest in 2006 caused flashy stream flow which eroded the banks of the stream undermining the parking lot foundation, parking lot asphalt surface and even put the 40' corporate sign in jeopardy.

**Project background** Gerber Legendary Blades, now a division of Fiskar's, is a manufacturer of jack-knives for outdoors enthusiasts. The Gerber corporate headquarters was built in the late 1970's near Portland, Oregon.

The parking lot was built an adequate distance from the stream running through the property, and paved with asphalt.

Continued development of impervious surfaces up-stream and expansion of Interstate 5 caused erosive conditions to worsen in the late 90's. Then in 2006, the result of major storms and very serious rain events, ferocious stream flows were undermining the structure of the parking lot located next to the stream.

Gerber attempted to repair the damage using several different methods, including soil lifts wrapped in geotextile. Back fill was found 10' down from previous efforts to protect the site.

All efforts to repair the site failed and Gerber needed an environmentally-correct long term solution.

**Solution** Installation of Agrecol's Envirolok Vegetated Retaining Wall System, distributed and installed by Sunmark Environmental Services.

Sunmark Environmental Services has a long history of working with native vegetation for erosion control, and is a Certified Installer of the Envirolok Vegetated Retaining Wall System

**Permits - Engineering  
Site Construction  
Supervision**

Provided by PBS Environmental and KBH Consulting. PBS coordinated the environmentally-sensitive solution by fast-tracking emergency erosion control permits from Oregon Dept. of State Lands, US Army Corps of Engineers and Clean Water Services.

**Environmental Review  
and Follow-up**

Gerber Facility Manager's reaction to the installed solution: *"I can see why this will be a permanent solution compared to what was tried in the past. I love it!"*

Agency reaction: State of Oregon's Clean Water Services has since reduced Gerber inspection period from once a quarter to once a year and sampling from once a year to once every five years.

Oregon Department of Transportation has also recognized a serious erosion problem on the Interstate 5 streambank side of the property and has retained PBS Environmental to expedite installation of the Envirolok Vegetated Retaining Wall System on the I-5 streambank side.

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

**Customer:**

**Gerber Legendary Blades**  
14200 SW 72nd Avenue  
Portland, Oregon

**Regulatory/Permitting Agencies:**

**State of Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**  
**State of Oregon Department of Transportation**  
**Clean Water Services**  
**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**Oregon Dept of State Lands**

**Distributor (Installer):**

**Sunmark Environmental Services, LLC**  
906 NW Corporate Drive  
Troutdale, Oregon 97060

**Engineering Provided By:**

**PBS Engineering & Environmental**  
1310 Main Street  
Vancouver, Washington 98660

**KBH Consulting, Inc.**  
161 Dunbar Way  
Suite 110  
Mahtomedi, Minnesota 55115

Contact information provided on request

**NOTE:** Advice from an engineer is recommended when building walls more than 4' in height, or when site conditions include unusual erosion or weak soil conditions.



**NOTE:** Do not burn native vegetation growing on the Envirolok system. The bag fabric is flammable. When fully vegetated, bags retain their integrity up to 200 years, depending on conditions.

[www.agrecol.com](http://www.agrecol.com)

Go to [agrecol.com](http://agrecol.com) for more information, specifications, standard detail drawings, photos and installation guides.

Agrecol® Corporation

2918 Agriculture Drive

Madison, Wis 53718

Telephone 608.226.2544

Fax 608.223.3575

[ecosolutions@agrecol.com](mailto:ecosolutions@agrecol.com)

[www.agrecol.com](http://www.agrecol.com)