



# SBIR

## Success Stories

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

## WOOD-BASED EROSION CONTROL MATERIAL

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### 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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