LIVE FASCINE

Live fascine is the placement of bundles of branches in trenches on the streambank to reduce erosion across the bank and establish soil stability.

Advantages and Disadvantages

- Live fascine is most effective when combined with live staking and riprap.
- The fascine is placed above the stream-forming flow and causes minimal site disturbance.
- A tiered streambank creates shorter slopes to slow overland flow. Angled fascines create drainage paths in the slope.
- Successful fascines require a large supply of long branches.

Materials

- Adequate supply of long branches.
- Rock for riprap (see Riprap section on page 9).
- Twine.
- Shovel.
- Live stakes and untreated lumber stakes.

Preparation

- The streambank should be at least a two feet horizontal to one foot vertical (2H: 1V) slope, or tiered with three- to five-foot steps.
- Long, straight bundles of native branches should be prepared in six- to eight-inch diameter bundles, bound with untreated twine. The bundles should be from five to ten feet in length.
- Within the bundles, all of the growing tips should be oriented the same direction.
- A supply of live stakes and dead stout stakes should be prepared in 2.5-foot lengths. The dead stout stakes should be made of untreated lumber.

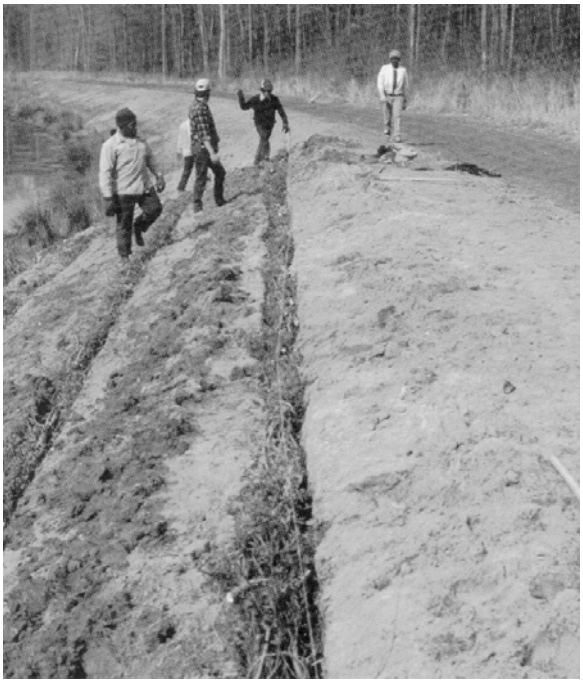

Figure 8. Live fascine placement

Figure 9. Live fascine stake network

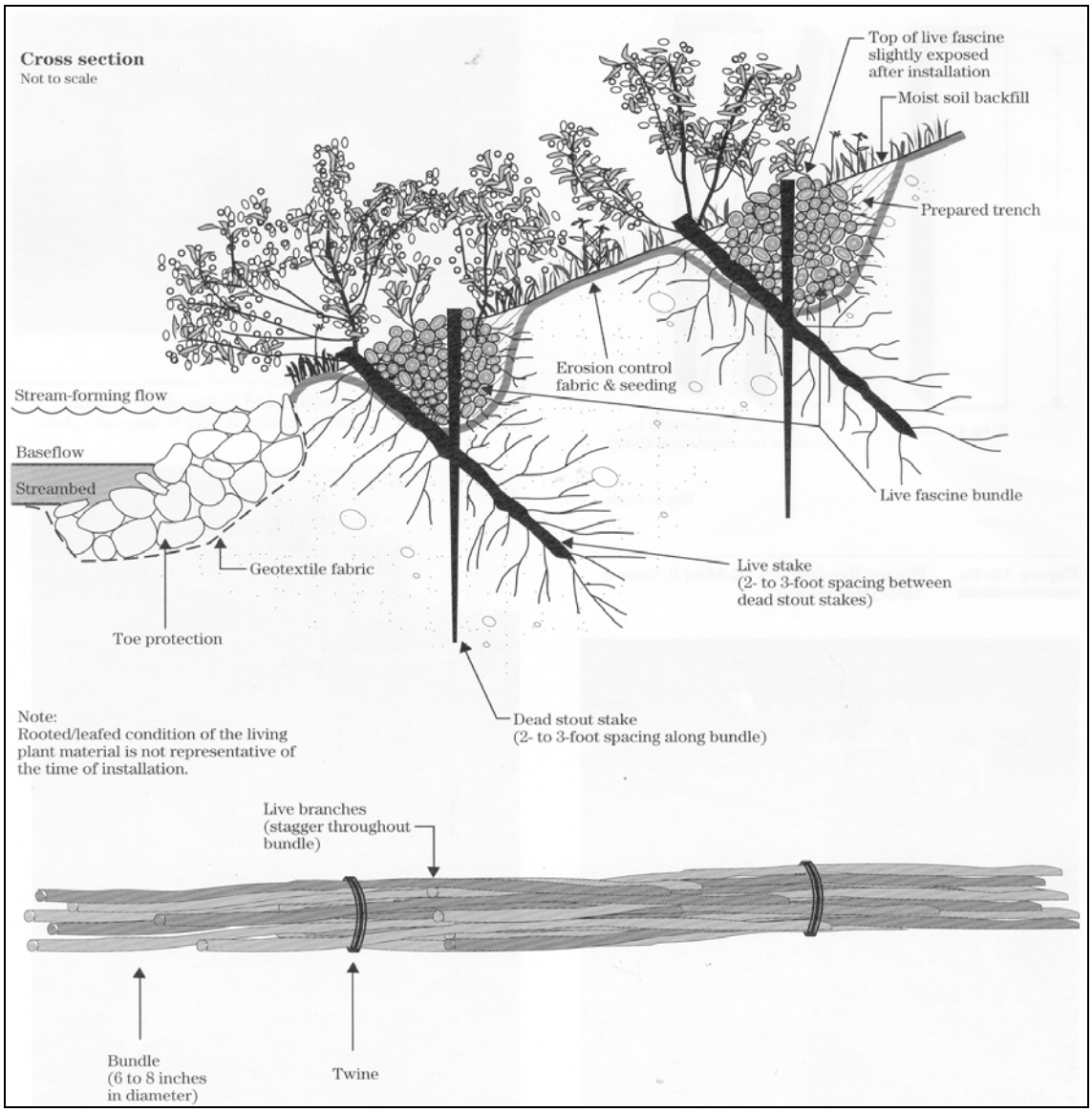

Figure 10. Live fascine details

Installation

- Excavate trench(es) on the slope.
- Place erosion control fabric in and between the trenches (see Figure 10).
- Place fascines in the trench(es).
- Drive dead stout stakes directly through the fascine every two to three feet, flush with the top of the fascines and at the connections of bundles.
- Drive live stakes between dead stout stakes, with three inches above the fascine.
- Place moist soil alongside of the fascine, but allow the top of the fascine to be seen.
- Riprap can be used to stabilize the toe of the slope, prevent it from being scoured, and secure the erosion control fabric.