Waterbars and Checks

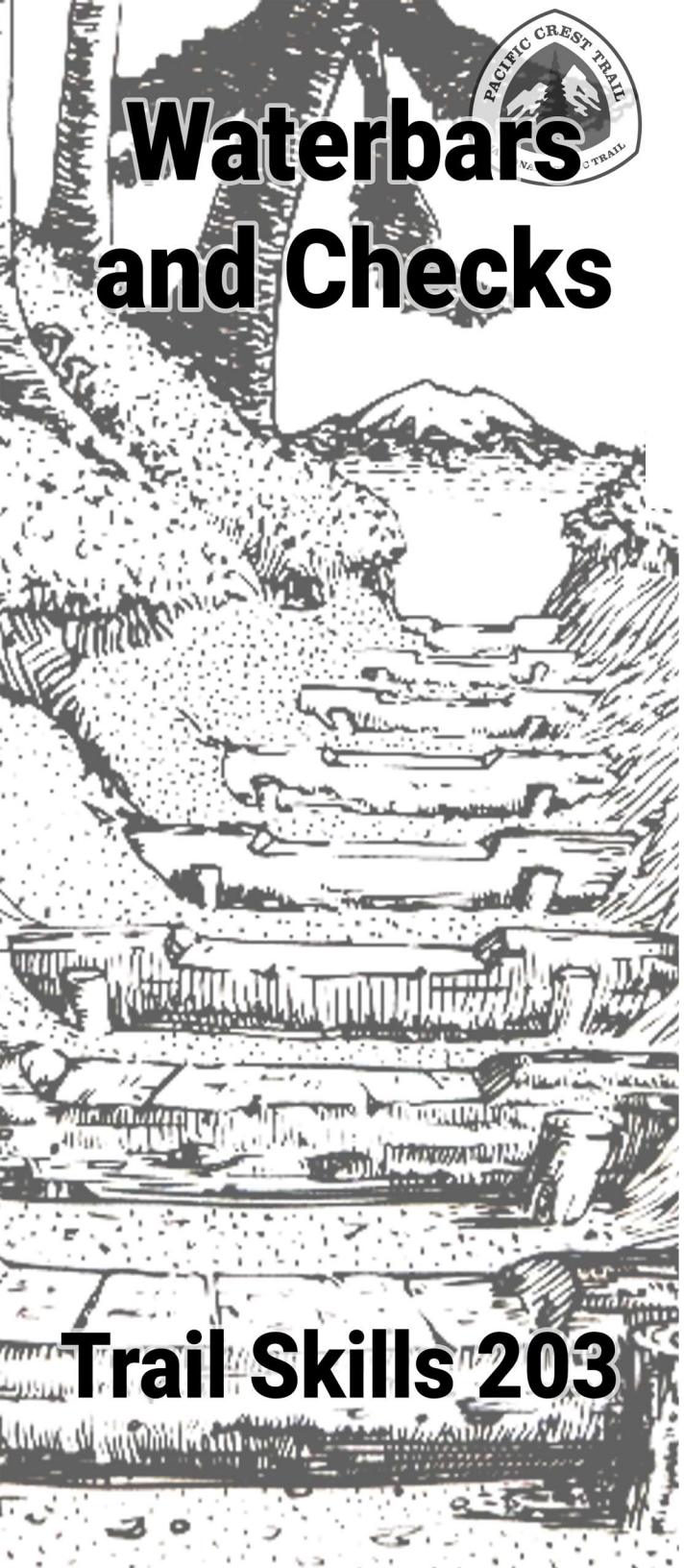

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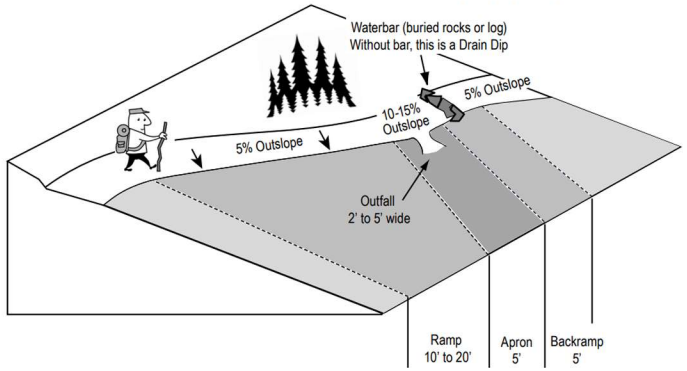
Figure 2. Diagram of modern waterbar construction



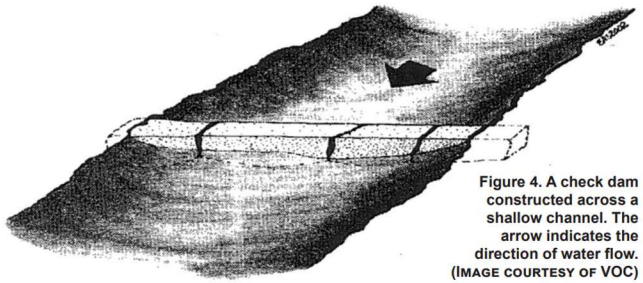
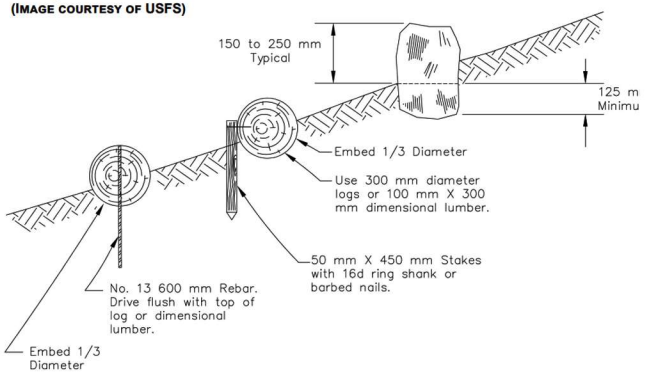
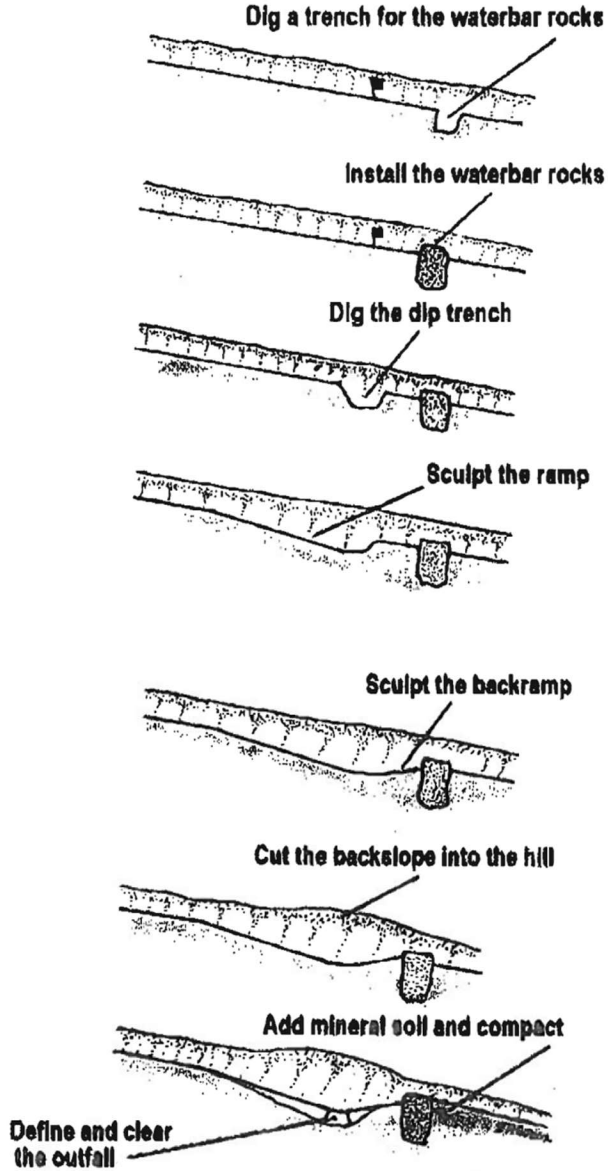


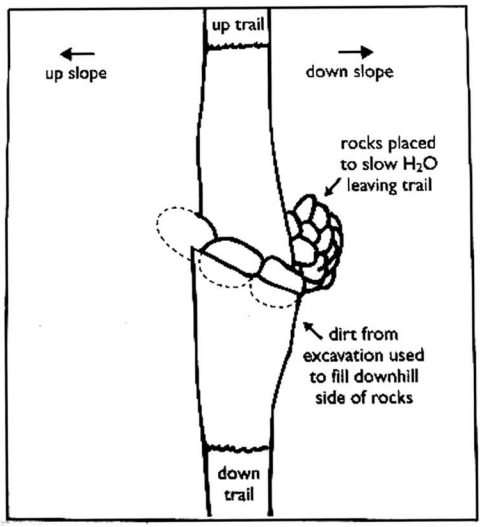
Figure 4. A check dam constructed across a shallow channel. The arrow indicates the direction of water flow. (IMAGE COURTESY OF VOC)

Figure 3. Check Dams. (IMAGE COURTESY OF USFS)

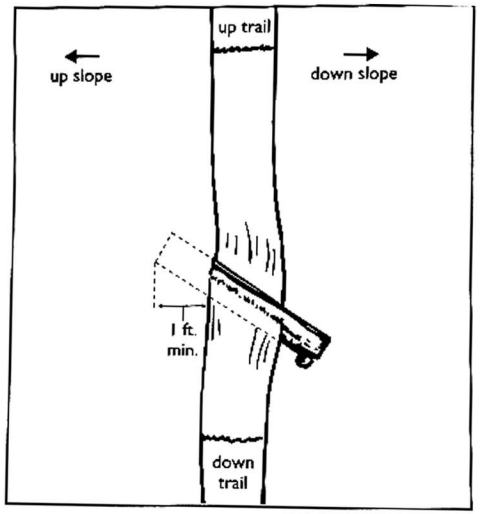


Seven Steps to Modern Water Bar Construction. (IMAGE COURTESY OF VOC)

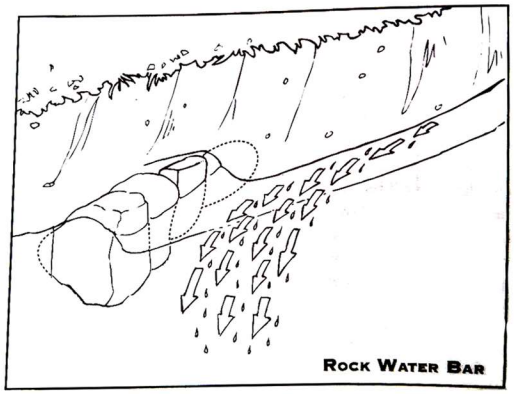




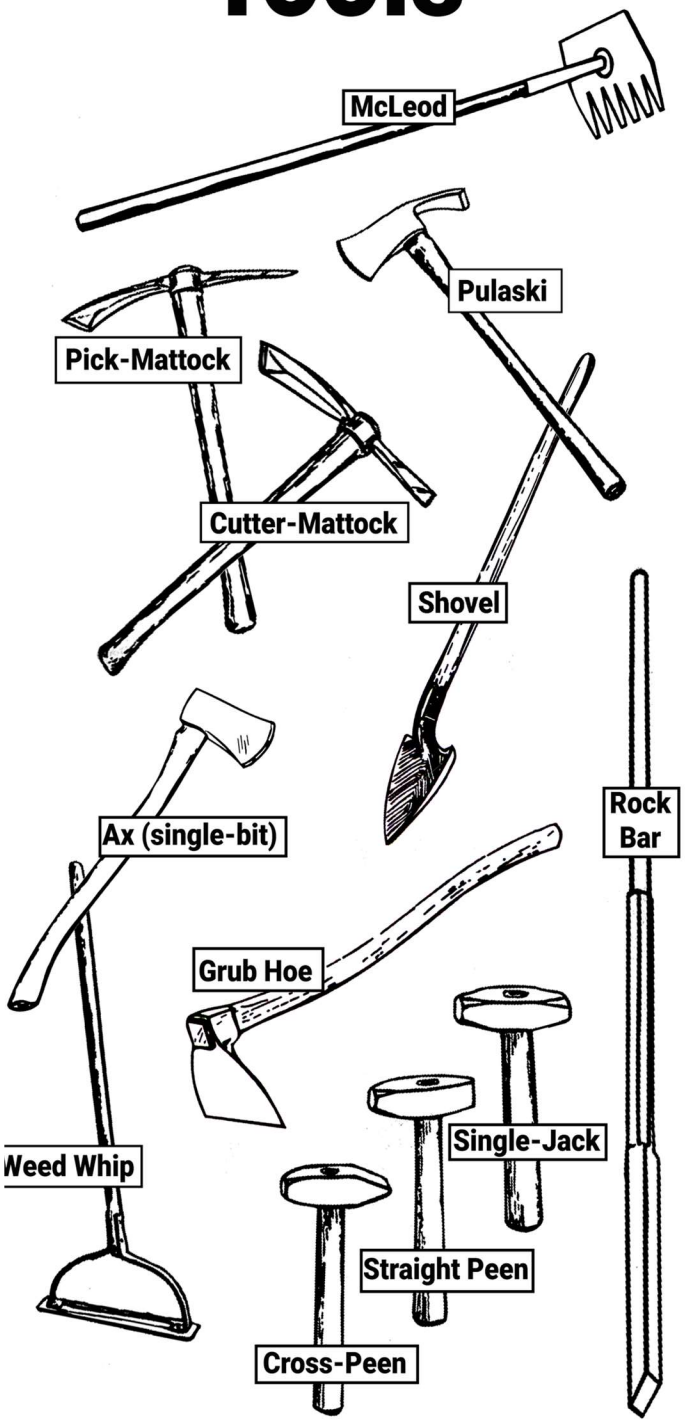
A bird's-eye view of a rock water bar.



A bird's-eye view of a wooden water bar.



Tools



Trail Terms

Check Step: A stone or log dam installed across deeply eroded or gullied trails to slow the flow of water enough to allow accumulation of fine fill material behind the structure.

Waterbar: A drainage structure composed of an outsloped segment of tread leading to a barrier (log, stone, or timber) placed at a 45° angle to the trail. Water flowing down the trail will be diverted by the outslope or, as a last resort, by the barrier. This type of drainage structure is no longer recommended for construction or use on trails. Grade dips are preferred.

Crush: Small pieces of angular rock (essentially gravel) created by smashing larger rocks with a sledge. Used for fill around rock placements to stabilize them.

Quarrying: The thorough search for quality rocks for construction for walls, water bars, checks, etc. Generally the search is uphill or across the side slope, for ease of transport, since quality rocks will be larger than one person can carry.