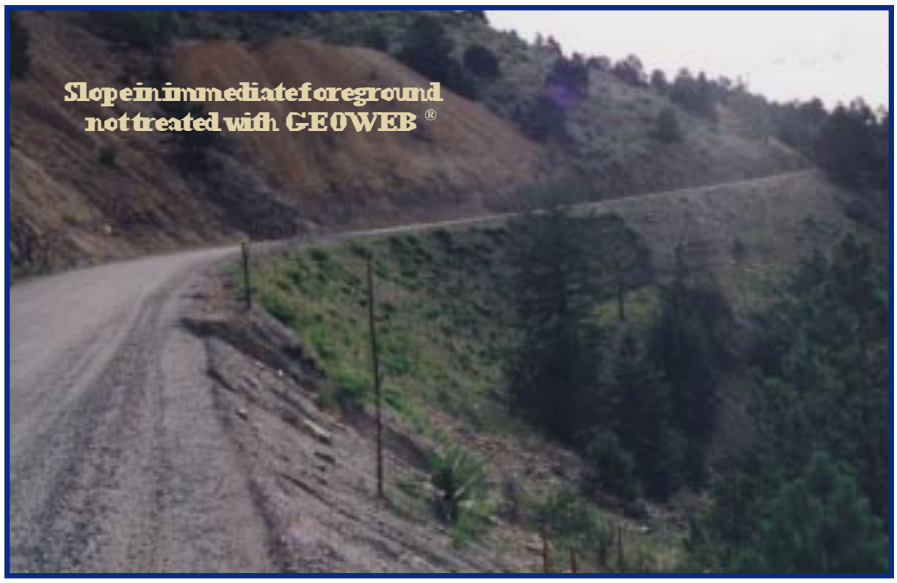
GEOWEB® Cellular Confinement System

High Altitude Rocky Mountain Installation

The Virginia Canyon Road in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado has a long and colorful history dating back to horse and buggy days. During that early time, the steepness of its many switchbacks earned it the humorous nickname, "Oh My God Road " from travelers forced to cope with manual braking and run-away horses on its down-hill slopes.

When Clear Creek County engineers were tasked with widening this historic road, the main difficulty with which they were confronted was maintaining the stability of the down canyon side slope while steepening that slope to accommodate the wider road. They also wanted a natural vegetated slope that would be suitable for this mountain wilderness at an elevation of 7,800 feet. Additional considerations included concerns about the seismic activity of the region and its highly acid soils. To meet these needs, county engineers selected the GEOWEB Cellular Confinement System, manufactured by Presto Products Company. The cellular GEOWEB System is flexible and can accommodate seismic movement. Also, a GEOWEB wall uniquely provides for revegetation when its outer cells are infilled with topsoil.



Photos courtesy of Jim Canady, Clear Creek County

A composite geogrid retaining wall design was developed by county engineers with preliminary design support by Presto's consulting engineers. The county's design featured a sand colored face which blended in immediately with the sandy native soil, and, with subsequent plant growth, the 25' high wall has virtually disappeared behind vegetation on the Colorado mountainside, despite the high altitude, rugged environment and cold weather.

Jim Canady, Project Manager with Roads and Bridges Department of Clear Creek County, recently reported that he is very pleased with the project. The area has vegetated beautifully, his measurements indicate the wall hasn't moved a bit, and, as expected, there are no signs of acid attack.

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