

Stabilising banana tracks

Landholders	Jinderpal Rai and Mohinder Singh
Map reference	8
Land use	Bananas, avocados, blueberries
Soil Erosion Solutions Grant	\$9,000 (excavator hire, gravel, native plants)
Landholder's in-kind contribution	\$10,300 (labour, tractor, excavator hire, gravel, cement, grass seed)

The site

The owner had difficulty maintaining vehicle access on the steep slopes of this working banana plantation. The alignment and condition of the access tracks for this banana plantation were creating gullies and making vehicle access increasingly difficult. A new blueberry orchard was also losing soil from bare ground between the rows.



Gully through banana plantation



Eroding banana track

Landholders' experience

What was the **best thing** about this project?
 "I can't believe how easy it is to spray my weeds!"

What was the **most difficult** aspect of the project?
 "It was hard work getting all that concrete up the hill."

The project

- > Erosion banks were installed to divert water off the tracks and reduce the velocity of the water moving downhill.
- > Tracks were reshaped using gravel, pipes, concrete and rock.
- > All areas disturbed by the erosion control works, including track surfaces, were seeded with grass.
- > The blueberry orchard floor was stabilised with a cover crop of grass.

The benefits

- > Soil and nutrient losses have reduced.
- > Access to the bananas for maintenance and harvest has improved.
- > The improved access has improved the condition of the fruit travelling to the packing shed.
- > The farm is operating more sustainably.



After the works : repaired banana track