Overland Flow

Once rainfall exceeds infiltration, water begins to flow. – Clay is hard to pick up due to cohesion. – Sand is hard to pick up due to size. Most of the sediment in sheet flow comes from rain detachment. THIS IS WHY COVERING THE SOIL SO EFFECTIVE!











Formation of Rills

Water begins to collect near the top of the slope. Rills generally deepen downslope. - Flow itself results in erosion. Headcutting moves upslope. Sediment comes into the rill from overland flow.

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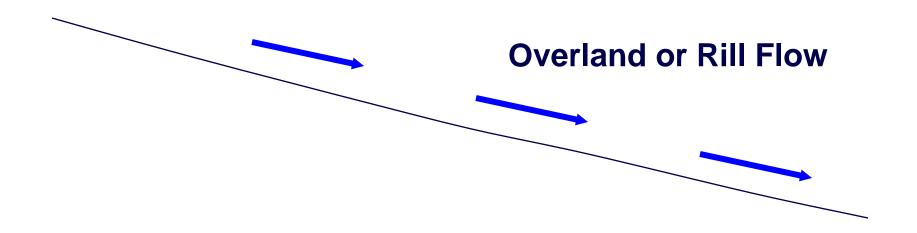
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Rills With Sandy Deposits

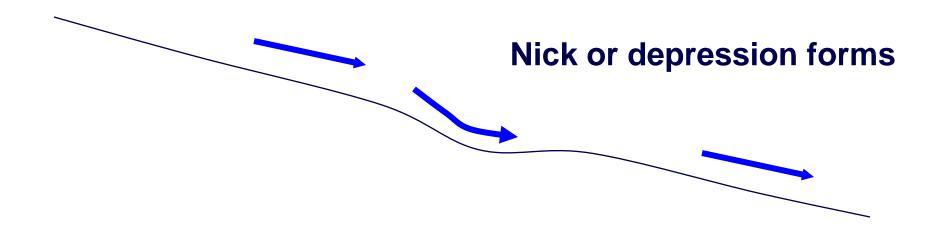
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Overland vs. Rills

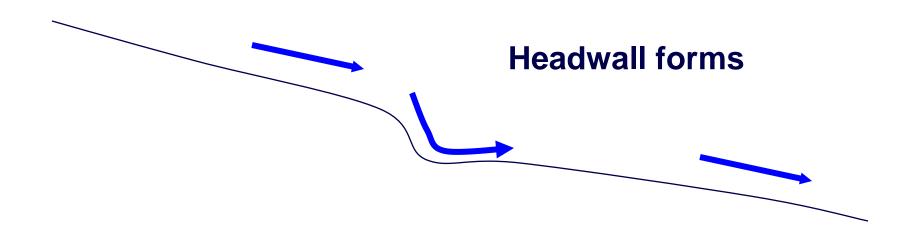
Studies have shown that both erosion processes are important. Relative importance depends on soil, slope, and storm intensity. Rills can carry large materials.



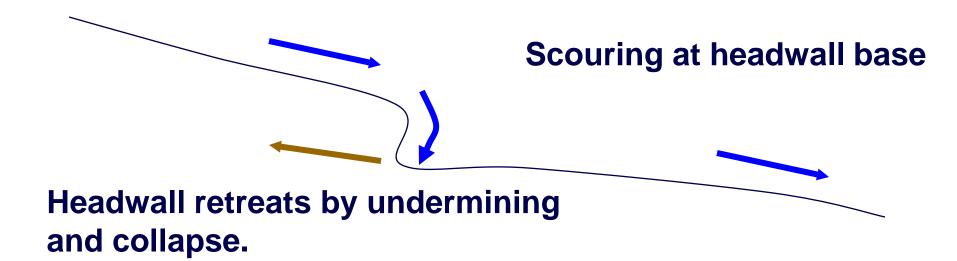
R. A. McLaughlin



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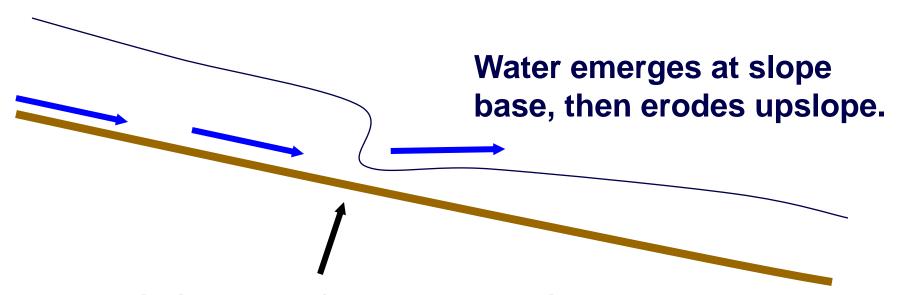


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Gully Formation: Piping



Restricting layer forces percolating water along slope.

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Gully After One Storm



Headwall retreat continues...

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Note Headwall Scouring...Nothing to Stop It!





Gullies Form Even in Flat, Sandy Soil

