

Fireline Rehabilitation Strategies



A fireline with removed material pulled back onto the disturbed soil.



Avoid using heavy equipment like this backhoe if possible.



Water bars or simple log check-dams can slow erosion on steep, loose slopes.

Restoring firelines is one of the major post fire rehabilitation tasks. Without prompt attention, firelines are at risk of weed colonization and erosion. If fire crews built your fireline, they will return to pull disturbed soil and plant material from the edge of the fireline back onto the line. However, landowners are responsible for any reseeding and maintenance, which should be done if at all possible. Here are restoration tips to consider and to relay to any restoration service you might hire:

- Avoid compacting disturbed soil, especially with heavy equipment.
- Reseed before winter with habitat appropriate seed mix. Use native seeds for firelines within native shrub-steppe, forest or riparian habitat: bluebunch wheatgrass or bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue mix for shrub-steppe and dry forest and blue wild rye or blue wild rye/mountain brome mix for riparian areas. 15#/ac.
- After heavy rain, check water bars or log “dams” that fire crews may have installed on steep slopes to ensure they functioned properly.
- Control weeds for a couple of seasons until grass is established.

For more information, contact:

METHOW CONSERVANCY: www.methowconservancy.org/fire.html
509-996-2870; info@methowconservancy.org

OKANOGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICT: <http://www.okanogancd.org/Fires>
509-422-0855

Places to buy local seed:

Methow Natives, 509.341.4060, methownatives1@gmail.com

YardFood, 509.997.0978, yardfood@tesshoke.com

Twisp Feed, 509.997.3621

Cascade Pipe & Supply, 509.997.0720

Eastern Green (for hydroseeding), 509.997.0116



Control weeds for a couple of seasons until grass cover is well established.



Restored fireline one year after seeding.