

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 for shrub-steppe and dry forest and blue wild rye for riparian areas. 15#/ac.
- After heavy rain, look at 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.

With diligent work, firelines can be rehabilitated within one season.

For more information, contact:

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



Restored fireline one year after seeding.