

Silver Knolls Homeowners,

In response to the fire that recently swept along Red Rock Road, there are multiple treatment methods that homeowners can use to mitigate soil degradation on burned properties. Erosion barriers, mulching, and chemical surface applications can be utilized to lessen soil erosion after fire.

Erosion barriers are used to trap soil runoff on steep slopes and may consist of objects such as downed logs laying parallel to the slope, straw waddles, and lines of straw bales. These barriers catch sediment during rain events that would otherwise flow off of the landscape.

Mulch treatments are used to increase ground cover which protects soil surfaces from rainfall impact, reduces overland flow and sediment movement, and increases infiltration. Methods for mulching include dispersed straw, wood shreds of strands, or wet applications of hydromulch.

Chemical surface treatments consist of soil binding agents that are either sprayed or applied dry with pellets. These treatments often degrade within months after application.

More information on burned area emergency response tools can be found through the U.S. Forest Service at <http://forest/moscowfsl.wsu.edu/BAERTOOLS>. Additional information is available through University of Idaho Extension: http://ucanr.edu/sites/postfire/Landowners_Guide_to_Fire/Post_Fire_Land_Evaluation_-_Management/Erosion_Control/.

For further assistance, the local service center for the Natural Resource Conservation Service can be contacted at

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