

Construction Site Rehabilitation Plan



Boulder County Land Use Department Publications

Land Use Department
2045 13th Street • PO Box 471
Boulder, CO 80302

Building Safety & Inspection Services:
t: 303-441-3925 • f: 303-441-4856

building_official@bouldercounty.org • www.bouldercounty.org/lu

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Closed Tuesdays 8-10 a.m.)

Rehabilitation of Construction Areas after a Wildland Fire

After a wildland fire it is necessary to take extra steps to successfully revegetate your construction site. In general, after a wildfire even in the most severely burned areas, research suggests that post-fire native grasses and flowers will reestablish on their own. However, when rebuilding a home after a fire, impacts to the soil from construction activities will reduce native vegetation's ability to reestablish.

In order to limit post-fire land degradation it is required that areas disturbed by construction activity have a comprehensive **Construction Site Rehabilitation Plan**, as part of the building permit process.

Tips and Techniques for better revegetation results after a wildland fire:

Salvaging Top Soil

The topsoil on your site is the best resource you have for successful revegetation. Even if it is only 2" in depth, it holds the nutrients and a diversity of microorganisms and mycorrhizal fungi that are beneficial to plant establishment and growth. Before you do any grading work, remove the top 2-6" depending on your site conditions, and stockpile it. After rebuilding and the final grading spread the topsoil back out over the areas you want to seed or landscape.

Soil Sterilization

In some situations the house fire may have burned so intensely that the soil directly around the building footprint may have been sterilized. Extra care may be needed to till this sterilized soil, bring in new top soil and/or add soil supplements such as compost, or mycorrhizal fungi. Local vendors sell topsoil, compost, topsoil/compost blends, and mycorrhizal fungi. Yard waste composts are good choices for native grasses, as they add organic matter, but not a lot of extra nutrients, and are more likely to be weed free.

Erosion Control and Mulching

The areas impacted by the fire that were moderately and severely burned are now at an elevated risk from severe runoff and erosion. To help reduce runoff from your disturbed construction site it is recommended that you apply certified weed free straw to the areas you revegetate. Straw should be applied and if possible, crimped into the soil to a depth of 1" using a shovel. It should cover approximately 70% of the soil surface.

Mulching is beneficial for reducing erosion and it also helps newly planted grasses establish quicker. When mulching with wood chips, do not exceed 2" in depth to help prevent weed infestation. Mulch from chipping burned trees in addition to straw mulch, may also help stabilize the soil.

Noxious Weed Monitoring

Based on experiences from recent nearby area fires, noxious weeds are expected to establish and expand in burned areas. Areas disturbed during construction are especially vulnerable to noxious weed colonization and extra care must be taken to limit the introduction of noxious weeds. Weeds are commonly introduced when vehicles and/or people travel across disturbed soils. After revegetation is complete you should monitor for and treat areas where weeds establish. For assistance with early detection and management of noxious weeds please contact Steve Sauer, Boulder County’s Noxious Weed Coordinator at 303-678-6110.

This publication is a supplement to the Land Use Department publication titled Revegetation. Both publications should be referenced as you develop your Construction Site Rehabilitation plan.

Please remember that these documents focus specifically on revegetation around your construction site. It may be necessary to take additional action in areas outside your construction site to help reduce post-fire land degradation on other areas of your land. Please reference our “Land Rehabilitation FAQs” publication to learn more about this and to find contact information for Natural Resource Experts who can help you evaluate the types of additional action that may be necessary on your land.



Land Use Department Building Office

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Web: www.bouldercounty.org/lu
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Closed Tuesdays 8 a.m. to 10 a.m..
Permits can be applied for until 4:00 p.m.

Intake Stamp

Fourmile Canyon Fire Construction Site Rehabilitation Plan Checklist Form

You are required to submit the following information with building permit applications to rebuild structures destroyed by the Fourmile Fire:

Construction Site Rehabilitation Plan that Shows:

- Disturbed areas that will be revegetated
- Wildfire Mitigation Zones 1 and 2 (30-50 feet around all structures)
 - Location of rock that will be installed around structures in defensible space zone 1A
 - Location of trees that will remain (live trees that survived the fire to be retained for screening)
 - Location of new trees to be planted as replacement trees for ones that burned (must meet defensible space tree spacing requirements, minimum of 15 feet apart and away from any buildings)
- Location of Silt Barriers for erosion control
- Areas of Matting or Mulching on steep slopes

To assist you in creating the Construction Site Rehabilitation Plan, please refer to the following Land Use Department Publications: *Sample Construction Site Rehabilitation Plan, Revegetation of Construction Areas after a Wildland Fire, Land Rehabilitation FAQs, Revegetation, Installing Rock Around Structures, and Silt Barriers*, or call your Case Manager to discuss your specific situation.

I plan to do the following with the hazardous trees on my property (check all that apply)

- Slash
 - Chip into mulch
 - Pile to burn (quantity of slash piles _____)
- Logs
 - Buck into firewood (trees greater than 6 inches in diameter)
 - Saw Logs (quantity of 12 inches or greater in diameter _____)
 - Fell and place along the slope contours
- Other: (if other please describe below)

If you want assistance with this decision, please see the Land Use Department Publication titled *Land Rehabilitation FAQ* or call your Case Manager to discuss your specific situation

I will use the following seed mix to reseed and revegetate the areas disturbed from construction

- Mountain Seed Mix (see the Land Use Department Publication titled *Native Seed Mix*)
- Other Seed Mix (if other, please list your seed mix or attach seed mix list)

Street Address			
Applicant (Please Print)	Signature	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Agent	Date



Sample Fourmile Fire Construction Site Rehabilitation Plan

Legend:

Site Restoration



Disturbed areas: to be reseeded using seed mix on the checklist



Disturbed Areas: to be reseeded, mulched, and stabilized with straw matting (2:1 or steeper)



Other erosion control devices
straw barriers or straw wattles

SF Silt Fencing

Wildfire Mitigation Defensible Space



Zone 1- Safety Zone: 15 to 30 feet around all structure(s) and propane tank



Zone 1A: Area where weed barrier and rock to be installed



Tree to be removed



Existing tree to keep



New tree to be planted in Zone 2



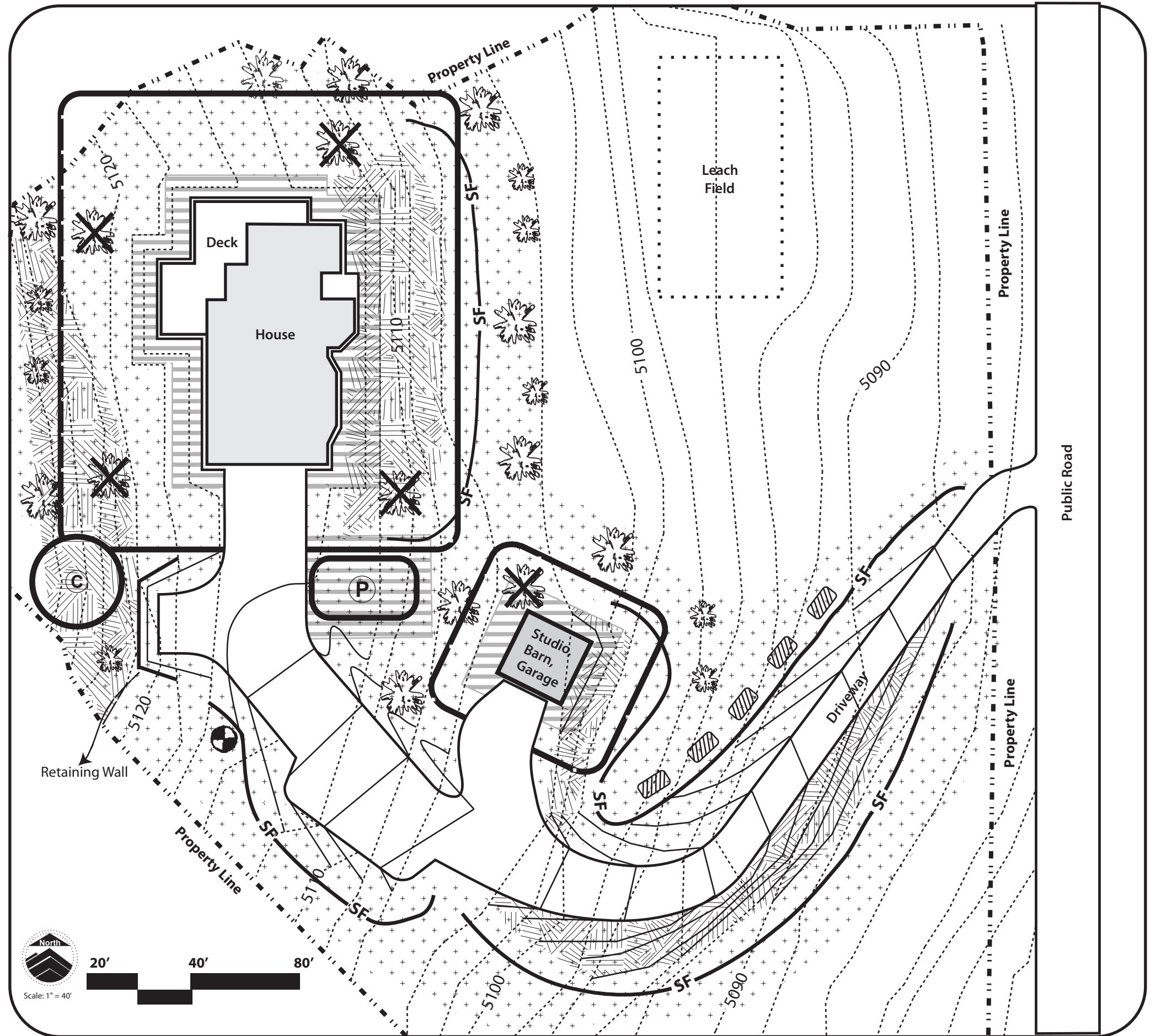
Fire Cistern (if present prior to fire)



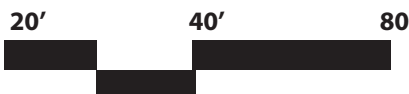
Propane Tank



Well



Scale: 1" = 40'



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