What is claimed is:

1. A retrievable downhole tool for use in a subterranean wellbore, the downhole tool comprising:

a retrieval member configured for selective attachment to a retrieval tool;

a packer mandrel;

a packing element disposed about the packer mandrel, the packing element movable between a first position and a radially expanded, axially shortened, second position;

an upper recovery sleeve disposed about the packer mandrel and extending between the packer mandrel and an upper end of the packing element;

an upper backup assembly movably disposed about the upper recovery sleeve and adjacent to the upper end of the packing element;

a lower recovery sleeve disposed about the packer mandrel and extending between the packer mandrel and a lower end of the packing element;

a lower backup assembly movably disposed about the lower recovery sleeve, the lower backup assembly having a lower backup ring assembly configured to move from a first position wherein the lower backup ring encloses an outer surface of the lower end of the packing element, to a second position wherein the lower backup ring is splayed outwardly at the lower end of the packing element; and

a retrieval sleeve selectively movable relative to the lower backup ring assembly and configured to at least partially retract the lower backup ring assembly from the splayed outward second position.

2. The packer assembly of claim 1, further comprising a filler ring movably disposed between the packer mandrel and the packing element.

3. The packer assembly of claim 2, wherein the packing element is bonded to the filler ring.

4. The packer assembly of claim 1, wherein the packing element comprises a unitary structure of packing material.

5. The packer assembly of claim 1, wherein the upper recovery sleeve has an upper recovery profile embedded within the packing element and the lower recovery sleeve has a lower recovery profile embedded within the packing element.

6. The packer assembly of claim 1, wherein the upper backup assembly comprises:

an upper backup sleeve; and

an upper backup ring assembly coupled to the upper backup sleeve and configured to enclose an outer surface of the upper end of the packing element.

7. The packer assembly of claim 6, wherein:

the upper backup ring assembly further comprises a first inner backup ring adjacent the outer surface of the upper end of the packing element, and a first outer backup ring adjacent the first inner backup ring; and

the upper backup sleeve is configured to abut the first outer backup ring when the packer is in a set configuration.

8. The packer assembly of claim 6, wherein the lower backup assembly comprises:
a lower backup sleeve coupled to the lower backup ring assembly.

9. The packer assembly of claim 8, wherein:

the lower backup ring assembly further comprises a second inner backup ring adjacent the outer surface of the lower end of the packing element, and a second outer backup ring adjacent the second inner backup ring; and

the lower backup sleeve is configured to abut the second outer backup ring when the packer is in a set configuration.

10. The packer assembly of claim 8, further comprising a boost mechanism configured to apply an upwardly-directed force on the lower backup assembly, wherein the retrieval sleeve is releasably connected to the boost mechanism.

11. A method of manipulating a packing element in a bore, comprising:

providing an upper recovery sleeve having an upper recovery profile embedded within the packing element;

providing a lower recovery sleeve having a lower recovery profile embedded within the packing element;

moving an upper backup assembly with respect to the upper recovery sleeve toward an upper end of the packing element;

moving a lower backup assembly with respect to the lower recovery sleeve toward a lower end of the packing element, the lower backup assembly having a lower backup ring enclosing an outer surface of the lower end of the packing element;

reducing an axial distance between the upper backup assembly and the lower backup assembly, thereby axially compressing the packing element;

deforming the packing element into contact with a surrounding wall of the bore and causing the lower backup ring to splay outward along the outer surface of a lower end of the packing element; and thereafter

increasing the axial distance between the upper recovery sleeve and the lower recovery sleeve, and releasing the packer element from the surrounding wall; and

at least partially retracting the splayed outward lower backup ring by moving a retrieval sleeve relative to the lower backup ring.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein deforming the packing element into contact with a surrounding wall of the bore includes:

splaying an upper backup ring of the upper backup assembly outward along an outer surface of an upper end of the packing element.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein releasing the packer element from the surrounding wall comprises:

increasing an axial distance between the lower backup ring and the lower end of the packing element.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein increasing the axial distance between the upper recovery sleeve and the lower recovery sleeve further comprises axially stretching the packing element by increasing the axial distance between the upper and lower recovery profiles embedded within the packing element.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein increasing the axial distance between the upper recovery sleeve and the lower recovery sleeve comprises using the upper backup assembly to move the upper recovery sleeve away from the lower recovery sleeve.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising retrieving the packing element with the lower backup ring in the at least partially retracted position.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising at least partially retracting the upper backup ring when the upper backup ring contacts a restriction in the bore during retrieval.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the packing element is axially fixed relative to the lower backup ring and the upper backup ring during retrieval.

19. A retrievable downhole tool comprising:

a central mandrel;

a slip assembly disposed about the central mandrel; and

a packer assembly disposed about the central mandrel, the packer assembly comprising:

a packer mandrel;

a packing element disposed about the packer mandrel and movable between a first position and a radially expanded, axially shortened, second position;

an upper recovery sleeve disposed about the packer mandrel and extending between the packer mandrel and an upper end of the packing element;

an upper backup assembly movably disposed about the upper recovery sleeve and adjacent to the upper end of the packing element;

a lower recovery sleeve disposed about the packer mandrel and extending between the packer mandrel and a lower end of the packing element;

a lower backup assembly movably disposed about the lower recovery sleeve, the lower backup assembly having a lower backup ring assembly configured to move from a first position wherein the lower backup ring encloses an outer surface of the lower end of the packing element, to a second position wherein the lower backup ring is splayed outwardly at the lower end of the packing element; and

a retrieval sleeve selectively movable relative to the lower backup ring assembly and configured to at least partially retract the lower backup ring assembly from the splayed outward second position.

20. The downhole tool of claim 19, wherein the slip assembly further comprises:

a slip mandrel;

a cone assembly coupled to the slip mandrel, the cone assembly comprising:

a base cone, and

an extension ramp coupled to the base cone, the extension ramp:

movable between a radially retracted position and a radially extended position, and

biased toward the radially retracted position by a biasing member; and

a slip member disposed adjacent the base cone, the slip member configured to slide between retracted and extended positions along an outer surface of the base cone and along an outer surface of the extension ramp.