WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for forming a seal in a wellbore comprising:

positioning an expandable metal sealing element in the wellbore; wherein the expandable metal sealing element comprises a reactive metal and is disposed in a location,

actuating a washout prevention element, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an absorbent polymer,

contacting the expandable metal sealing element with a fluid that reacts with the reactive metal to produce a reaction product having a volume greater than the reactive metal, and

allowing the washout prevention element to prevent at least a portion of the reaction product from flowing away from the location.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a cup seal.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a swellable elastomer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the washout prevention element further comprises a bladder.

5. The method of claim1, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an inflatable bladder and a gas-emitting material.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the washout prevention element comprises two rows of petals.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactive metal comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, aluminum, tin, zinc, beryllium, barium, manganese, and any combination thereof.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the reactive metal comprises a metal alloy selected from the group consisting of magnesium-zinc, magnesium-aluminum, calcium-magnesium, aluminum-copper, and any combination thereof.

9. A sealing apparatus for a wellbore, the apparatus comprising:

an expandable metal sealing element comprising a reactive metal and disposed downhole in a location, wherein the reactive metal is reactive with a fluid to produce a reaction product having a volume greater than the reactive metal; and

a washout prevention element actuatable to prevent at least a portion of the reaction product from flowing away from the location wherein the washout prevention element comprises an absorbent polymer.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a cup seal.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a swellable elastomer.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the washout prevention element further comprises a bladder.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an inflatable bladder and a gas-emitting material.

14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises two rows of petals.

15. A system for forming a seal in a wellbore, the system comprising:

an expandable metal sealing element comprising a reactive metal and disposed on a conduit in a location, wherein the reactive metal is reactable with a fluid to produce a reaction product having a volume greater than the reactive metal,

a washout prevention element and actuatable to prevent at least a portion of the reaction product from flowing away from the location, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an absorbent polymer, and

the conduit disposed in the wellbore.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a cup seal.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an inflatable bladder and a gas-emitting material.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the washout prevention element comprises two rows of petals.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a swellable elastomer.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein the reactive metal comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, aluminum, tin, zinc, beryllium, barium, manganese, and any combination thereof.