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 ~~an absorbent polymer~~a bladder.

5. The method of claim ~~4~~1, wherein the washout prevention element ~~further~~ comprises an inflatable bladder~~.~~ and a gas-emitting material.

~~6. The method of claim 1, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an inflatable bladder and a gas-emitting material.~~

~~7~~6. The method of claim 1, wherein the washout prevention element comprises two rows of petals.

~~8~~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.

~~9~~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.

~~10~~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.

~~11~~10. The apparatus of claim ~~10~~9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a cup seal.

~~12~~11. The apparatus of claim ~~10~~9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a swellable elastomer.

~~13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an absorbent polymer.~~

~~14~~12. The apparatus of claim ~~13~~9, wherein the washout prevention element further comprises a bladder.

~~15~~13. The apparatus of claim ~~10~~9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an inflatable bladder and a gas-emitting material.

~~16~~14. The apparatus of claim ~~10~~9, wherein the washout prevention element comprises two rows of petals.

~~17~~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.

~~18~~16. The system of claim ~~17~~15, wherein the washout prevention element comprises a cup seal.

~~19~~17. The system of claim ~~17~~15, wherein the washout prevention element comprises an inflatable bladder and a gas-emitting material.

~~20~~18. The system of claim ~~17~~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.