



NEWS RELEASE

Colorado Springs, Colorado

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MARKIT! FORESTRY MANAGEMENT COMPLETES THE ARAPAHOE BASIN BEAVERS EXPANSION PROJECT

Arapahoe Basin ("A-Basin") is a world famous alpine ski area in the White River National Forest in Colorado. A-Basin is known for its extended ski season and for spectacular views of the Continental Divide from its ski lifts. As a key part of A-Basin's long-planned expansion, Markit! Forestry Management ("Markit! Forestry") has completed the forestry operation for The Beavers expansion. Markit! Forestry's work included clearing trees and biomass for the construction of a new ski lift, for the construction of a new black diamond ski run, and for the construction of an egress back to the existing ski area. The forestry work for The Beavers expansion encompassed approximately 26 acres.

Markit! Forestry's work for The Beavers expansion involved felling and removing timber and other biomass. The felling work was accomplished on very steep slopes by saw crews using chainsaws. After cutting, trees and slash were removed from the site by helicopter. The removal of forest biomass by helicopter took almost four weeks.

The Beavers expansion project required Markit! Forestry to work across four areas:

1. Emergency Egress Route. The Emergency Egress Route is approximately 6,600 feet long and 25 feet wide. A special consideration for the Emergency Egress Route was that a large portion occupies a Stream Management Zone. Best management practices had to be observed in this zone as specified by the U.S. Forest Service.
2. Beavers Lift Line. Two sections were cleared for The Beavers lift line, totaling about 1,400 feet in length and 50 feet in width.
3. Trail B2. This trail is the eastern trail beginning at the bottom of the Beaver Bowl and ending at the bottom of Beavers Lift. It is approximately 2,700 feet long by 120 feet wide.
4. Trail B4. This is the western trail from the bottom of the Beaver Bowl to the bottom of Beavers Lift. It is approximately 2,900 feet long by 120 feet wide.

Timber and other biomass from the four work areas was flown by helicopter to the Early Riser parking lot of A-Basin where it was processed. Markit! Forestry removed whole trees by helicopter to the staging area. Most of the trees and biomass were chipped and removed from the site. Markit! Forestry sent 122 truckloads of chipped biomass to the Eagle Valley Clean Energy biomass plant in the town of Gypsum, Colorado. All biomass from the project was used to create clean energy in Western Colorado.

Pat Gayner, Markit! Forestry's Vice President of Business Development observed, "The A-Basin work presented a number of unique challenges. First, as one might imagine, the terrain was very demanding. The Beavers will accommodate a new black diamond ski run, which attests to the steepness of the terrain on which Markit! Forestry's personnel worked. Second, much of the land was environmentally sensitive, requiring Markit! Forestry's personnel to adhere to strict work standards. Finally, given the terrain and the slopes and the nature of project, all of the

felled trees had to be removed from the site by helicopter. Flying a helicopter near mountain slopes, attaching and removing tow lines, and flying trees from the slopes to the staging area all presented unique safety risks. Despite the challenges, Markit! Forestry completed The Beavers expansion project efficiently, effectively and safely. Markit! Forestry was pleased to work on such a high-profile project to provide new recreational and tourism opportunities in Colorado."



Helicopter delivering trees to the A-Basin staging area for The Beavers expansion project.



At the completion of The Beavers expansion, 339 lift-served acres will be opened. A-Basin currently has 132 trails and 1,331 acres of skiable area. A-Basin averages about 350 inches of snow a year, and the ski area has a lift capacity of approximately 10,700 people per hour. The Arapahoe Basin East Wall has a summit elevation of 13,050 feet, which is among the highest in-bounds skiable terrain in North America.

Markit! Forestry Management is a full service environmental forestry management company headquartered in Colorado Springs. Markit! Forestry provides Forest Fuels Reduction, Forest Health Restoration, Post-Fire Rehabilitation, Defensible Space, Timber Harvesting and Trail Building services on Municipal, State, Federal and private land. For more information on Markit! Forestry Management please visit www.markitforestry.com, or call Pat Gayner at 719-593-2365.