



NEWS RELEASE

Colorado Springs, Colorado

November 10, 2017

AUSTIN BLUFFS OPEN SPACE FORESTRY PROJECT COMPLETED BY MARKIT! FORESTRY MANAGEMENT FOR THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

Austin Bluffs Open Space ("Austin Bluffs") comprises about 584 acres in the City of Colorado Springs. The scenic aspects of Austin Bluffs are of the highest quality, with unique rock formations, large columns of coarse-grained sandstone, mesas, valleys, and inspiring views of Pikes Peak. Austin Bluffs has trails available for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. The scenic and recreational aspects of Austin Bluffs are magnified since Austin Bluffs is located near the heart of Colorado Springs, and since the undeveloped land is viewed by many thousands of people per day from the roads and highways that border the area.

At the request of the City of Colorado Springs, Markit! Forestry Management ("Markit! Forestry") has completed a forest restoration project covering 25.7 acres in Austin Bluffs. The forest restoration project entailed creating defensible space, mitigating against soil erosion, and improving trail egress in this heavily used open space. The project involved mastication, hand work and chipping.

Dennis Will, the Staff Forester overseeing the project for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department for the City of Colorado Springs commented on the challenges in completing the Austin Bluffs project, which included, ". . . steep slopes inaccessible to mechanized equipment, long-distance slash hauling to a chipper, wet weather on fragile soils, rocky outcroppings with potential to damage equipment, concern for trails and their users, seasonal changes in weather conditions, a very complex set of prescriptions to meet grant objectives and, of course, budget constraints." Despite the obstacles and challenges, Mr. Will characterized the project as "beautifully completed" by Markit! Forestry.

Work commenced on this project in August and was completed at the beginning of November. Leigh Ann Wolfe, the President of Markit! Forestry remarked, "Austin Bluffs Open Space is a beautiful resource for the people of Colorado Springs and for Colorado Springs' tourist industry. Markit! Forestry is extremely pleased to have worked with Dennis Will and the City of Colorado Springs in this delicate and difficult environment to preserve and enhance the open space for the use of future generations."

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.