

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Colorado Springs, Colorado

June 17, 2020

### **CANYONS SOUTH WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROJECT COMPLETED BY MARKIT! FORESTRY MANAGEMENT**

Canyons South is a tract of land of over 2000 acres, located near the town of Castle Rock in Douglas County, Colorado. Canyons South was acquired by an affiliate of Hines Development ("Hines") to be developed into a planned community, with houses, parks and recreational facilities. Hines is a privately owned global real estate investment, development and management firm, founded in 1957. Hines has a presence in 205 cities in 24 countries and has over \$130 billion of assets under management.

The Canyons South Wildfire Mitigation Project, undertaken and completed by Markit! Forestry Management LLC ("Markit! Forestry"), was an effort to mitigate wildfire risk to the future residents of the Canyons South development. The project will help prevent the propagation of wildfire in the forested areas of Canyons South and reset the vegetation on the property to a natural, fire-resistant condition. The fuel break work executed by Markit! Forestry reduced continuous fuel loads both horizontally and vertically between trees, shrubs, and herbaceous fuels. Ladder fuels of Ponderosa Pine trees were limbed up to ten feet. In addition to completing the forest management goals of the forestry treatment, Markit! Forestry focused on the visual aesthetics of the property to make it appealing to future homeowners.

Markit! Forestry's work on Canyons South was conducted on a little over 300 acres and included a combination of mastication and handwork. Most of the project involved mastication with a Tigercat 726 horizontal shaft masticator. Markit! Forestry also utilized an ASV RT-120 horizontal shaft masticator for high-touch finishing work. Finally, a three-person hand crew limbed leave-trees and finished the project to give it the desired aesthetic appeal. Markit! Forestry worked closely with a Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist to provide Hines with the desired goal of wildfire mitigation.



*Fire breaks constructed on Canyons South by Markit! Forestry*

Aaron Rector, Forester and Business Development Manager for Markit! Forestry, summarized the Canyons South project as follows:

*The Canyons South project was a unique and collaborative forestry project. Douglas County instituted standards in regard to Wildland Fire Defensible Space. The County requires that wildfire mitigation be done before home construction can commence as a way to establish the expectation of what a fire-resistant property can look like to future residents. Markit! Forestry worked with Douglas County officials and with Hines to develop an aesthetically pleasing environment for prospective homebuyers that is also wildfire resistant. Conducting wildfire mitigation in advance of construction is also extremely cost effective, allowing housing to be developed at a lower cost.*

*The collaboration between Hines Development, Douglas County and Markit! Forestry, utilizing forestry and fire mitigation standards set forth by the Colorado State Forest Service, should set a standard for the pretreatment for new developments across Colorado. Markit! Forestry was pleased to work with Hines and with the staff of Douglas County, and is very proud of the fire mitigation and property-transforming results of our work.*



***Canyons South property after fire mitigation treatment by Markit! Forestry***

Markit! Forestry Management is a full-service environmental forestry management company, specializing in steep slope forestry projects and helicopter logging in the southwest United States. Markit! Forestry Management provides Forest Fuels Reduction, Forest Health Restoration, Post-Fire Rehabilitation, Defensible Space, and Timber Harvesting on Municipal, State, Federal and private land. For more information on Markit! Forestry Management please visit [www.markitforestry.com](http://www.markitforestry.com), or call Matt Wigle at 719-593-2365.