

NEWS RELEASE

Colorado Springs, Colorado
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STEEP SLOPE FIRE MITIGATION PROJECT AT CRYSTAL PARK COLORADO COMPLETED BY MARKIT! FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Markit! Forestry Management ("Markit! Forestry") has completed a complex and highly technical steep slope forestry project for the Crystal Park Homeowners Association in El Paso County, near Manitou Springs, Colorado. Fire mitigation and forest restoration work was completed on slopes with grades of up to 65% at elevations ranging from 7,400 to 8,200 feet.

Crystal Park is a gated community and is accessed via Crystal Park Road out of Manitou Springs, Colorado. The Crystal Park Homeowners Association's primary goal for the forestry project was to decrease hazardous fuels and reduce the fire threat to traffic along the Park's single ingress and egress road. The catastrophic Waldo Canyon fire in 2012 in adjacent areas of El Paso County highlighted the need to allow safe access to residential neighborhoods for firefighters and other responders in the event of a wildland fire. Additional goals of the project included the improvement of forest health within the project areas, increasing the forest's resistance to insects and disease, and enhancing forest survivability in the event of wildfire. The total steep slope area treated by Markit! Forestry was approximately 27 acres.



Markit! Forestry working on a 65% slope at Crystal Park, Colorado.

The Crystal Park work involved hazardous wildland fuels reduction, conducted primarily through hand treatment and innovative material removal techniques. A key objective of the project was reducing the fire threat to Crystal Park's single access and escape road by creating shaded fuel breaks extending 200 feet below and 100 feet above the Crystal Park Road. Markit! Forestry was often working below steel guardrails along the road, and had to stage its equipment on the road while controlling traffic. Access for heavy equipment was severely limited, so Markit! was required to develop creative materials handling solutions.



Snow highlights the tree and brush thinning accomplished by Markit! Forestry on the steep slopes above and below the Crystal Park Road.

Pat Gayner, Vice President of New Business Development at Markit! Forestry commented:

The Crystal Park project allowed Markit! Forestry to demonstrate its ability to find creative solutions to difficult forestry projects. Markit! Forestry developed innovative workflows combining hand and mechanical work, and chipping and material removal. The work was staged from the single road into the residential neighborhood. Markit! had to always allow access to residential and commercial traffic, while trees and brush were moved both uphill and downhill before being removed. Markit!'s devotion to planning and safety allowed this dangerous project to be carried out efficiently and without incident.

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. Markit! Forestry specializes in steep slope and difficult terrain forestry, helicopter logging, and multidiscipline forestry projects. For more information on Markit! Forestry Management please visit www.markitforestry.com, or call Pat Gayner at 719-593-2365.