

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Colorado Springs, Colorado  
April 9, 2020

### **HEIL VALLEY RANCH - LICHEN FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT COMPLETED BY MARKIT! FORESTRY MANAGEMENT FOR BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**

Heil Valley Ranch in Boulder County, Colorado, contains over 6,200 acres, with trails for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Heil Valley Ranch is located about 40 miles northwest of Denver, and about 11 miles north of the City of Boulder. Markit! Forestry Management ("Markit! Forestry") recently completed a hazard fuel reduction project on the Heil Valley Ranch that was recommended by the Lefthand Canyon and Boulder County Community Wildfire Protection Plans as part of an effort to reduce the risk from wildfire and protect critical infrastructure.

The total project area for Markit! Forestry's work was approximately 160 acres. Due to the steep slopes, severe topography, and highly erodible soils on the project site, the project required the use of helicopter yarding via a whole-tree method. The project also required Markit! Forestry to process and transport the biomass resulting from the tree removal and thinning. The project started in January 2020, and had a timeline of 60 business days.



***Helicopter Removing Trees Cut  
By Markit! Forestry's Hand Crews***



***Helicopter Delivering Trees To  
Markit! Forestry's Tree Processing Deck***

The Heil Valley Ranch - Lichen Fuels Reduction Project was funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program, Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation grant funding, and matching Boulder County funding.

Aaron Rector, Forester and Business Development Manager for Markit! Forestry commented:

*Heil Valley Ranch is a cherished resource for the Boulder County Parks and Open Space department and for people across Colorado. Heil Valley Ranch provides amazing opportunities for hiking, biking, bird watching and other outdoor activities. Markit! Forestry was pleased to undertake and successfully execute the hazardous forest fuels reduction project to minimize disturbance to the very sensitive ecosystem, and to minimize disruption to the public's enjoyment of the Ranch. Markit! Forestry began the project on January 13, and finished on March 26, and removed approximately 2,100 tons of hazardous fuel. This project has made a significant contribution to keeping the forest healthy and to allowing the public to enjoy it for years to come. It was a pleasure to work with the staff of Boulder County, all of whom provided great leadership throughout the project.*



***Tree Processing Deck on the Heil Valley Ranch***

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.