



NEWS RELEASE

Colorado Springs, Colorado

April 26, 2018

MUELLER STATE PARK FORESTRY PROJECT COMPLETED BY MARKIT! FORESTRY MANAGEMENT FOR THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Markit! Forestry Management ("Markit! Forestry") has completed an environmental forestry project on approximately 45 acres in Mueller State Park for the Colorado State Forest Service. The primary goal of the project was to decrease hazardous fuels and increase the overall forest health within the project areas. Secondary goals of the project included improving the forest wildlife habitat, enhancing safety along the primary escape route from the Park, improving the Park's aesthetics, and increasing the forest's resistance to insects and disease. The overall project was divided into two parts, with one part administered by the Colorado State Forest Service ("CSFS") and another part administered by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte ("CUSP"). Markit! Forestry had previously collaborated on numerous successful forestry projects with both the CSFS and with CUSP.

Mueller State Park is located near the town of Divide in Teller County, Colorado. The Park is comprised of approximately 5,100 acres, and is noted for a wide range of plant and animal species in a very scenic environment. Notable plant life in the park includes native grasses and wildflowers, and stands of spruce, fir, pine and aspen trees. Animals in the park include elk, mule deer, bears, small mammals and resident and migratory birds. The park offers year-round camping, picnicking, trails and winter recreational activities including sledding, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

Markit! Forestry's work included reducing the potential hazard and severity of wildfires by creating a fuel break along the south side of the main Park entrance road. Constructing the fuel break was accomplished by reducing fuel loads, canopy closure, and stand density in the designated areas. The fuel break created by Markit! Forestry was connected to fire mitigation work from previous forestry projects to create a continuous fuel break. In addition, Markit! Forestry removed dead and spruce beetle infected trees within the project area.

Work commenced on this project on January 17, 2018, and was completed on April 20, 2018. Markit! Forestry utilized a variety of forestry equipment and a four-person crew. The forestry work included handwork with chainsaws and a Barko 930 masticator, a Rayco C200 masticator and a T770 Bobcat. Markit! Forestry planned and executed the project to minimize disruption to the general public visiting the Park.

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.