



NEWS RELEASE

Colorado Springs, Colorado
July 27, 2016

FLYING W RANCH'S SISTER COMPANY CONTRIBUTES TO FIGHTING THE BEAVER CREEK FIRE

On June 26, 2012, the Waldo Canyon fire destroyed 19 of the 20 buildings that comprised the Chuckwagon hospitality business of the Flying W Ranch ("Flying W"), and burned over 1000 acres of the Flying W's land. The Waldo Canyon fire devastated the Flying W, and thrust owner Leigh Ann Wolfe into the forestry business. Leigh Ann began working with Markit! Forestry Management ("Markit! Forestry") on post-fire rehabilitation of the Flying W's land, which led her to purchase a majority interest in Markit! Forestry. Leigh Ann's plan was to work through Markit! Forestry to restore forest lands across Colorado that were destroyed by fires, and to help restore healthy and fire-resistant forests.

On June 19, 2016, the Beaver Creek Fire was detected approximately 24 miles northwest of Walden, Colorado. The fire is burning in heavy beetle-killed timber. As of July 25, the fire had spread to over 26,000 acres and was being fought by over 260 people.

To aid the firefighting effort, Markit! Forestry has contributed a 300+ horsepower Barko 930 forestry tractor with a mastication head and an experienced operator. Mark Herndon, one of the founders of Markit! Forestry, and a National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) certified Firefighter and Fireline Sawyer, has been operating Markit!'s forestry tractor to help build fire lines for the last 14 days.



Firefighters on the Beaver Creek Fire surrounding Markit! Forestry's Barko 930 Tractor



Beaver Creek forest land before treatment by Markit! Forestry's Barko 930 Tractor



Beaver Creek forest land after treatment by Markit! Forestry's Barko 930 Tractor

The forestry tractor contributed by Markit! Forestry is one of the largest forestry tractors operating in Colorado, and it is making a difference in controlling the Beaver Creek Fire. The tractor is large enough to push trees over, and the mastication head on the tractor grinds the trees and brush into small chips,



thereby creating fire lines for controlled burning operations. The productivity of the forestry tractor saves countless hours of dangerous work that otherwise would be done by firefighters with chainsaws.

The Beaver Creek Fire has burned both public and private land in Colorado and Wyoming, including over 14,500 acres of the Routt National Forest. The fire is being fueled by timber and brush, with particular hazards from high density beetle-killed lodge pole stands. The beetle-killed trees are subject to being blown over, which makes the fire containment effort especially dangerous for firefighters.

Markit! Forestry's contribution to fighting the Beaver Creek Fire has been acknowledged on the NWCG website, InciWeb. The InciWeb write-up on Markit! Forestry appears below:

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Beaver Creek Fire Large Photograph

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Masticator Photo Layout

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Beaver Creek Fire Colorado July 19, 2016

Masticator Operator Mark Herndon of Markit! Forestry Management, based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, shreds trees and brush to clear a path for firefighters on the northeast flank to use as control lines for burning operations. Trees and ground litter are reduced to pulp by 60 teeth on the leading edge of the 300 HP Masticator. This cost-effective tactic reduces the amount of chainsaw work and exposure of firefighters to felling operations and falling trees.

Mike McMillan Photos - Beaver Creek Fire PIO

UNIT INFORMATION

Routt National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, WY , CO 82070



INCIDENT CONTACTS

Fire Information
Phone: 307-223-2291

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The Flying W Ranch is a world-famous tourist venue in Colorado Springs. The hospitality business of the Flying W Ranch was destroyed in the Waldo Canyon fire of June 2012, but the business is being rebuilt, with a targeted reopening in the summer of 2017. For more information on the Flying W Ranch please visit www.flyingw.com, or call Aaron Winter at 719-598-4000.

Markit! Forestry Management is a full service forestry management company headquartered in Colorado Springs. Markit! Forestry Management provides Forest Fuels Reduction, Forest Health Restoration, Post-Fire Rehabilitation, Defensible Space Construction, Timber Harvesting and Trail Building services on State, Federal and private land. For more information on Markit! Forestry please visit www.markitforestry.com, or call Pat Gayner at 719-948-8220.