



Reducing Wildfire Risk at Castlewood Canyon State Park *West Canyon Fuels Reduction*



State Parks and Wildlife conducts proactive forest management to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Fuels treatment goals are:

- Protect the safety of park visitors and neighbors
- Protect park property and natural resources
- Reduce wildfire risk or slow the spread if one occurs
- Improve forest health
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Protect the beauty of Castlewood Canyon



Before and after aerial photographs show reduced oak density and patch cuts post-project (at Roxborough State Park)



2005



2009

Before and after pictures of a similar fuels reduction treatment at Roxborough State Park. The before photo shows unhealthy, continuous gambel oak with hazardous fuel loading. The after photo shows reduced oak density, non-contiguous fuels, and diminished wildfire risk.

These projects are possible because of funds provided by Great Outdoors Colorado, the Colorado Lottery and the Colorado State Forest Service.



For more information please contact Castlewood Canyon State Park at 303-688-5242

West Canyon

2011 Fuels Reduction

40 acres

Vegetation treatment is necessary to reduce risk of wildfire and improve safety of evacuation routes.

Treatment Details

Patch Cuts –

- Removes oak within strategic areas. Retains some healthy clumps – spaced to a standard minimum of 2.5 times height of remaining vegetation.

Ladder Fuels –

- Gambel oak or small conifers that are found underneath larger healthy conifers will be removed.

Regrowth and Maintenance –

- Gambel oak regrow quickly, but this treatment will improve safety significantly in this area for several years post-treatment.
- Once the oak is 5 years old or more, it may again become a hazardous fuel. Parks and Wildlife is committed to maintaining this treatment overtime to retain effectiveness.

Timeline –

- Work will start in fall 2011 and be complete by early 2012.
- Trail and parking area closures are to be expected as work is completed during this timeline.

Equipment –

- A combination of hand treatment with chainsaws and mastication with a Bull Hog (similar to photo on right) will be used for this project. This mix will ensure the best possible end product.

