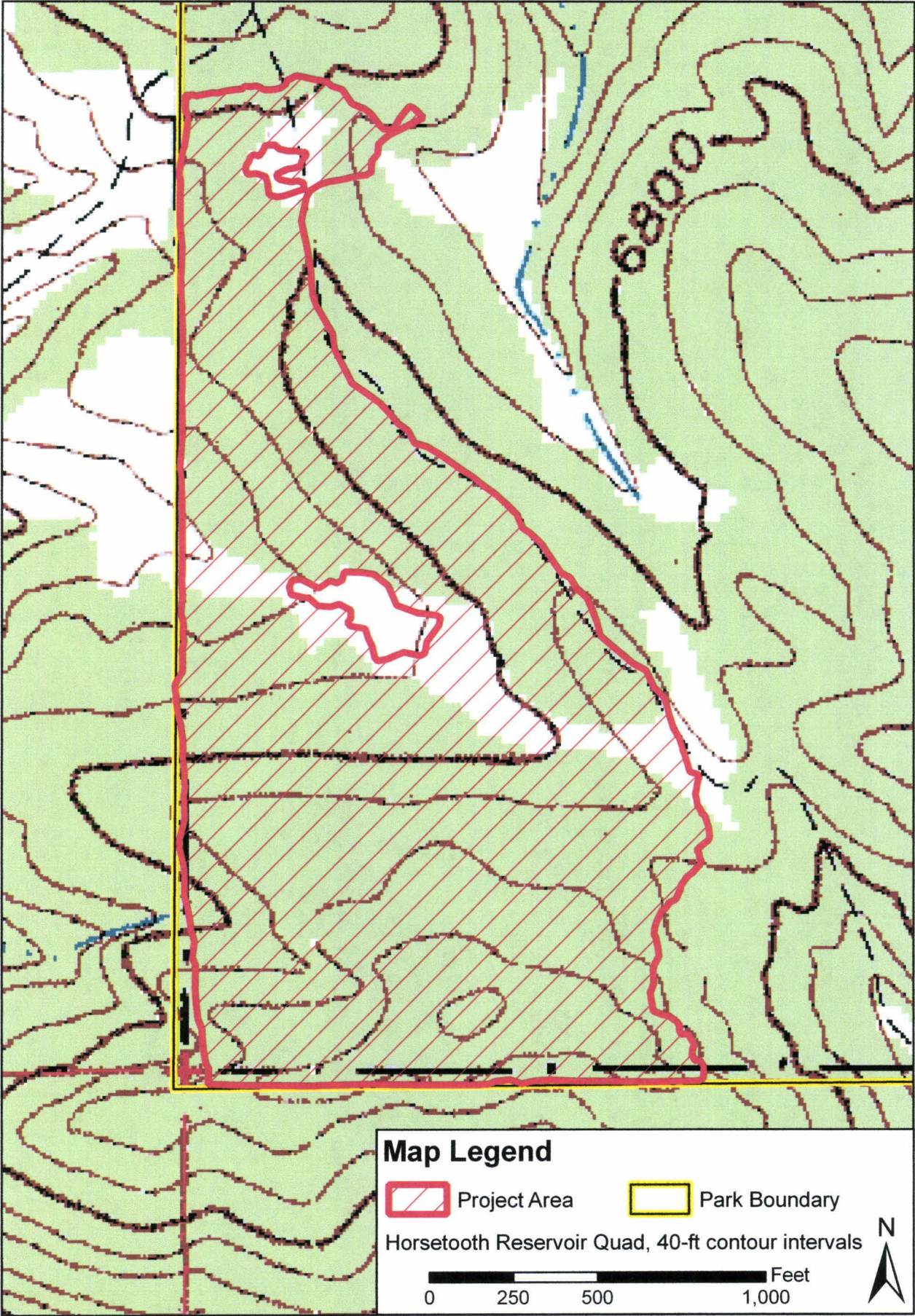
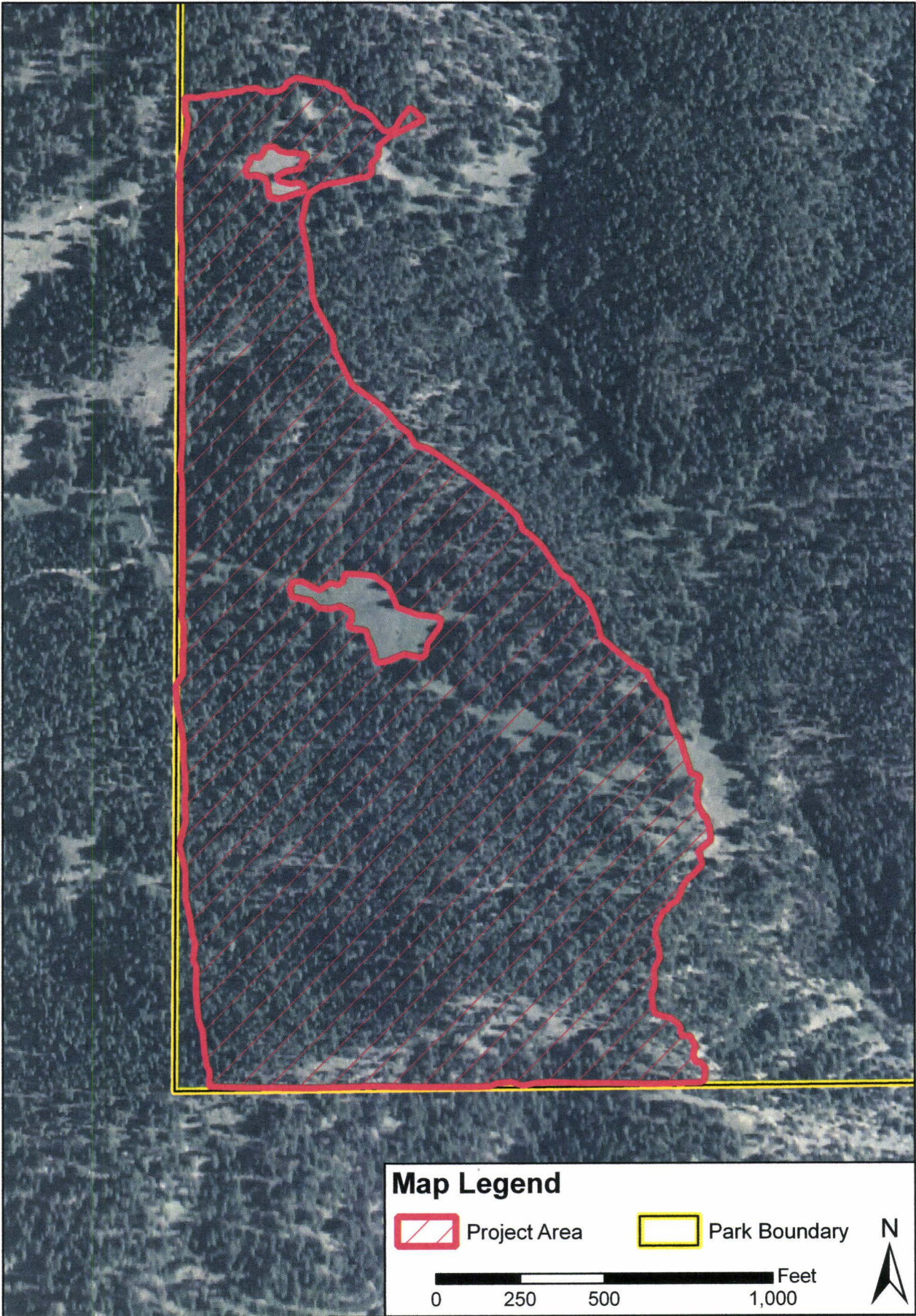


Lory State Park Forest Management Project Map



Lory State Park Forest Management Project Map





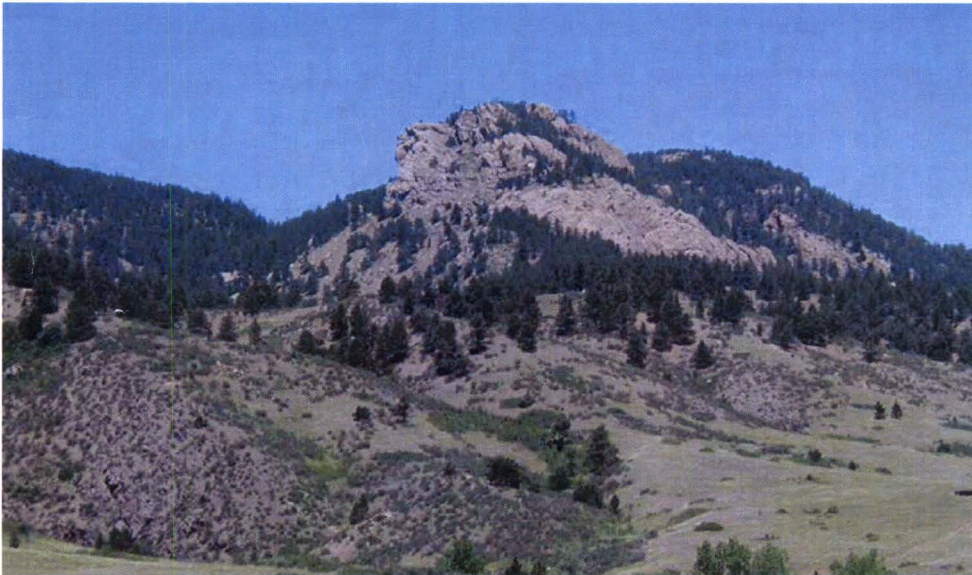
Lory State Park

Fuel Mitigation Project

Project Description

This project is located in the southwest portion of the Park and is approximately 66 acres. The project is designed to:

- Reduce the extent of infection from the parasitic plant dwarf mistletoe to improve ponderosa pine health.
- Expand meadows to allow for increased forage for wildlife.
- Reduce fuel loading to decrease the chance of fire passing to or from private lands to the west.



Rationale for Recommended Management Treatments

Since the Park has a disproportionate amount of dwarf mistletoe, the primary goal is to remove dwarf mistletoe and allow for healthy tree regeneration. In addition, increasing crown separation and lowering fuel loading will reduce the wildfire threat in the Park, as well as improve habitat value for wildlife.

The effectiveness of these projects can be increased when neighbors participate in fuel mitigation on their property. *For information and assistance on fuel mitigation on your property, contact the Colorado State Forest Service, Fort Collins District at 970-491-8660.*



Blue circle is current project area. Other colors are future projects.

Proposed Treatment

- Remove dwarf mistletoe-infected trees using mechanical mastication and manage as a lower elevation ponderosa pine stand.
 - All trees with any amount of dwarf mistletoe will be removed or girdled.
 - If available, an average of at least two large infected trees per acre will be girdled and left for wildlife use.
- Residual trees will be left in an uneven pattern with a representation of all diameter classes.



Dwarf mistletoe often leaves a witches broom affect on the tops of the trees.

Long-term Benefits

These treatments will result in an open ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir woodland that will have an increased resistance to catastrophic wildfire, insects, and diseases. There will be greater age distribution, and the new generation of trees will be able to reforest the area and replace the aging trees.

Forest Fuel Mitigation

What is Fuel Mitigation?

Fuel Mitigation is forest management directed at reducing the risk of large wildfires. This can be done in a number of ways and varies by forest type. The main goal is to slow the spread of fire to protect people and structures. In some cases, fuel mitigation can improve the resistance of trees to disease and pests, protect watersheds or restore historic ecological conditions.

Why is it a big deal now?

Forest fuel mitigation is now in the news for numerous reasons.

Wildland-Urban Interface –

Human development is increasing in forested areas where fire is a natural occurrence, therefore more homes and communities are at risk of large fires.

Drought and Stress – Colorado is experiencing a prolonged drought that has resulted in drier and more flammable fuels. Insect epidemics, which are native to Colorado, may be increasing in numbers and severity due to drought.

Fire Suppression – Particularly at lower elevations, fires have been suppressed for many years and smaller trees and denser forests are providing more fuels.

Maturing Forests – Across Colorado, many forests were burned and logged in the late 1800s. Many of these forests are now reaching a mature state that produces more fuels for fire.

As the fires of 2000-2002 brought to people's attention, all of these factors can combine to result in dramatic consequences for homes and communities.

How is mitigation being performed on State Parks?

Projects on State Parks lands are designed to slow the spread and reduce the risk of wildfires, to minimize the impacts to wildlife and natural vegetation, to mimic natural processes to the largest extent possible, and to maintain the aesthetics that visitors expect in State Parks. The types of projects on State Parks lands include:

Defensible Space – Clearing and thinning trees and brush back about 200 feet from structures. CSFS Firewise information can provide details for your home (www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06302.html).

Prescribed Burning – Reintroducing burning helps to mimic the natural disturbance processes in order to keep down fuel loads and, in some cases, improve understory species.

Thinning in Ponderosa and Oak – At lower elevations, where vegetation has become dense from fire suppression, we can thin to levels that are less likely to carry large fires, and in some cases this process may restore the forests to conditions that resemble those of hundreds of years ago.

Lodgepole Patch Cuts – Different forest types require different methods. Lodgepole requires larger cuts because of its unique ecology, so we typically cut all trees in patches of 2-10 acres.

Aspen Selection – Particularly in mixed conifer forests, selective thinning can be used to promote more aspen regrowth, which provides good habitat for elk and deer.

Funding

These projects are possible because of Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) funding for inventory and planning and USFS Fire Plan funding for project implementation. State Parks plans and the Colorado State Forest Service oversees the actual mitigation projects. Most of our parks are part of Front Range Fuel Treatment Partnerships, where State Parks are one part of the landscape being treated.



GREAT OUTDOORS
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P.O. BOX 85 • MASONVILLE • COLORADO • 80541

May 21, 2005

Michael Hughes
Colorado State University
Foothills Campus – Delivery 5075
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Dear Mike,

Our Board of Directors has reviewed your request made last fall for access via Redstone Canyon Association roads into Lory State Park for timber clearing projects. We know there was a public meeting recently about this program but unfortunately we only had less than 48 hours notice about the meeting and couldn't attend.

The Board has made a unanimous decision to not allow contractor access through our private roads into the Park. There are a number of critical issues and concerns we believe cannot be resolved, which outweigh any potential benefits to the Association and adjacent landowners. We appreciate your efforts to mitigate fire risks; however the influx of private contractors with heavy equipment brings its own fire danger, as well as liability and other problems for us. In addition, RCA cannot grant anyone permission to use the private property of individual landowners located adjacent to public lands. We have spoken to the landowners who would be affected and they are opposed to granting access.

There are at least 2 property owners on the Ranch who do work with the Colorado State Forest in managing their trees and we will continue to encourage this kind of responsible stewardship of the land here in Redstone Canyon. However, we are not able to open up RCA roads for access to Lory State Park or other public lands adjacent to Association private property.

Sincerely,

Linda Panepinto
President