

The Long Gulch Firebreak Project

May 3-4, 2006

A collaborative project to help protect Front Range forests, watersheds and communities from wildfire

Purpose of the project: To establish a permanent fireline on the Lower North Fork parcel of Denver Water land to assist with wildfire suppression efforts and to provide holding line for future prescribed fire projects. This project also will provide an opportunity for the State Wildfire Inmate Fire Teams (SWIFT) and Colorado State Forest Service employees to prepare for the 2006 fire season.

Project size: Approximately 15,600 feet of permanent firebreak will be constructed.

Project location: The Lower North Fork parcel is located approximately 40 miles from Denver, southeast of Conifer

Agencies and organizations involved:

Colorado State Forest Service—providing overall project coordination, overhead positions

Denver Water—project is occurring on their land

Colorado Correctional Industries—providing three handcrews with support staff

Denver Mountain Parks—providing access to Newton Park (Incident Command Post location)

Colorado Baptist General Convention—providing meal support for crews/overhead

Elk Creek Fire Protection District—providing EMS support

Jefferson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)—providing communications support

Number of people involved: Three Type 2 Hand Crews comprised of approximately 60 people; approximately 15 overhead personnel.

Definitions:

Firebreak—A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check a wildfire's spread or to provide a control line from which to work. A strip of land that is 20-30 feet wide (or more), in which all vegetation is removed down to bare mineral soil each year prior to fire season.

Fuelbreak—An easily accessible strip of land of varying width (depending on fuel and terrain), in which fuel density is reduced, thus improving fire control opportunities. The stand is thinned and remaining trees are pruned to remove ladder fuels and create an open, park-like appearance.

