SWAYBACK / JENNY GULCH TIMBER SALE FACT SHEET

Background and Purpose of the Project

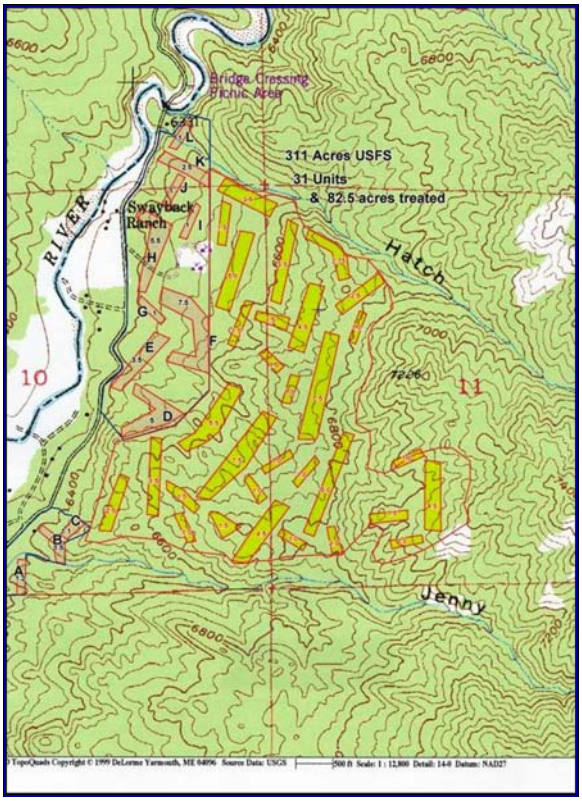
The Swayback/Jenny Gulch Timber Sale is Phase II of the Swayback/Jenny Gulch Good Neighbor Project. The project is a joint effort of the Colorado State Forest Service, Denver Water, Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership and USDA Forest Service. The work is being done on Denver Water and USDA Forest Service lands; the Colorado State Forest Service is managing the project through an agreement with the two organizations. The total project area is more than 400 acres; actual harvest activity is now occurring on a portion of those acres.

The purpose of the project is to restore ponderosa pine forests to more closely resemble pre-settlement conditions, improve forest health, and reduce wildfire hazards. That means less dense tree stands, more open tree canopies, diverse age and species composition, and less Douglas-fir.

Rooted in Science

The prescription for treatment in this area was developed by scientists and foresters who have studied the historic forest landscape at Cheesman Reservoir for more than 10 years to determine how pre-settlement conditions looked. Cheesman was studied because the occurrence of logging was limited during the pre-settlement period and cattle grazing has not occurred for more than 100 years.

The Swayback / Jenny Gulch Timber Sale is a collaborative project of:
Colorado State Forest Service
Denver Water
Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership
Rocky Mountain Research Station
USDA Forest Service



Swayback / Jenny Gulch Good Neighbor Timber Sale Denver Water & USFS Properties

Blending the Past with the Present

Openings were an integral part of ponderosa pine ecosystems during the pre-settlement era. Current research has concluded that openings distributed across the landscape in specific patterns can be a strategy for slowing the spread of wildfire through tree crowns and aid suppression efforts. As part of the ongoing research of the Trumbull-Swayback Demonstration Forest, the partners are implementing these concepts developed by the Fire Sciences Laboratory in Missoula, Montana, to determine the effectiveness and visual impacts of the placement of openings on the landscape, as well as test methodologies for creating them.

Project Description and Timeline

This timber sale is actually the second phase of the project. Phase I, which occurred in 2004, involved the mastication (mulching) of smaller trees within the project area.

Phase II involves the development of distinct openings in the forest and additional thinning of the trees that surround the openings. Areas in which logs have been removed (skidded) or decked for removal will be rehabilitated prior to the completion of the project.

The thinning phase of the project will continue into early 2007. Residents and visitors may see skidders, log trucks and other equipment in the area for the duration of the project. Log trucks are not allowed to use the transfer station road on the weekends; however, loggers will be cutting and skidding trees. The timber will be transported to a sawmill in Montrose, Colorado, using Highway 67 through Deckers to Woodland Park.

Phase III will employ the use of prescribed fire to help restore forest health and reduce wildfire hazards. Slash piles that result from thinning will be burned when snow cover is adequate; burning will not occur until after thinning has been completed. Project managers will make every effort to notify residents before any burning occurs.

This treated area shows the openings that were an integral part of ponderosa pine ecosystems during the pre-settlement era.

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Colorado State Forest Service

DENVER WATER

FRFTP Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

Rocky Mountain Research Station

Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture