

Forest Restoration and Fuels Mitigation Grant

Purpose of Funds: Funds will be spent to create 4-6 FTE private sector jobs to improve timber stands in Lookout Mountain, Genesee, and Pence Mountain parks. The forest restoration approach for timber stand improvement will modify the target areas to simulate a natural and more sustainable condition which was present when periodic natural fire events occurred in the front-range forest ecosystems.

Receiving Department: Parks and Recreation / Natural Resources Division / Mountain Parks District

Amount: \$275,000.00

Type of Grant: ARRA Competitive

Number of People Served: ~ 500,000 people in aggregate per year visit the Buffalo Bill Gravesite and Museum, Genesee Park, and drive along the historic Squaw Pass Road to Echo Lake Park from Bergen Park.

Spending Period: Funds must be spent before the end of August 2011.

Public Process: Internal Parks decision making process in conjunction with existing Colorado State Forest Service management plans.

Proposed Spending: A contract forester and private wood cutting crews will be hired to work in the designated park areas.

The goals of the project are to:

- Reduce wildfire hazards on targeted park areas by mechanically improving the tree stand structure and density to match historic conditions.
- Improve wildlife habitat by creating natural canopy openings and increasing species diversity.
- Improve forest health by removing diseased or over crowded trees.
- Create a more sustainable environment and improve water quality.

For more information, please see the oversight committee docs at
<http://www.denvergov.org/stimulus>