

WHAT

This project focuses on reducing hazardous vegetation (Gambel oak) to lower wildfire risk across Crowfoot Valley Ranch Metropolitan District 1.

WHY

Dense Gambel oak creates continuous fuels that can drive fast-moving, high-intensity wildfires. This project will reduce flame lengths near homes, slow wildfire spread, and improve firefighter access and safety.

WHERE

All Gambel oak is removed within a defensible space buffer 100 feet from all structures. In open spaces, Gambel oak is thinned into isolated patches to reduce fuel continuity and loading.

HOW

WORK ALIGNS WITH:

- [2020 Canyons South Wildfire Mitigation Plan \(WMP\)](#)
- [Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation Standards](#)
- [Colorado State Forest Service \(CSFS\) guidance](#)

APPROACH:

Treatments include hand thinning and cutting, chipping and scattering woody material, removal of ladder fuels, and targeted herbicide (triclopyr) applied to cut stumps to reduce regrowth. Vegetation will be thinned into a mosaic patchwork pattern to increase spacing and reduce fire spread and intensity.

FAQ

Why leave cut material on-site?

Helps prevent erosion, retain moisture, and protect soils by providing organic matter. Material is managed to avoid creating high fire intensity.

Will vegetation grow back?

Yes. Ongoing maintenance is required, including periodic retreatment.

How does this affect my insurance?

Reducing wildfire risk can improve coverage options and help control premium costs.

Why not clear everything?

The goal is strategic thinning. A mosaic pattern reduces fire risk while maintaining wildlife habitat and privacy.

Why use herbicides?

Gambel oak resprouts aggressively. Triclopyr applied to cut stumps helps reduce regrowth and the need for repeated disturbance.



Before

After

Will this cause erosion or invasive species?

Short-term risk exists, but is minimized by leaving woody material, limiting soil disturbance, following weed control best work practices, avoiding runoff channels, and monitoring treated areas.

CROWFOOT VALLEY RANCH

Wildfire Risk Reduction Project

