

Last year in Canon City a ten year's operation to thin the forests around the Wet Mountain peaks had begun. The operation is being backed by the Forest Service. A coalition including the Forest Service, private companies and individuals. The partnership is working with a "use 'em or lose 'em" policy of cutting trees before burning. US forest management including heavy logging and elaborate fire suppression, has allowed Southwestern Ponderosa forests to become overgrown and fire-prone, these overgrown, fire-prone forests scared the Canon City community in 2002 when a large fire burned a lot of the region. With the recent dry winters and continued build-up of fuels, possibly new large fires are occurring. According to Joe Schlobotnik, he is the program director for the Canon City Trust, and he said "the peaks are the signature of Canon City and if all that was just on big empty place, this town's economy would really suffer. What is worry some is that the Canon City Trust plays a large roll in what the futures forest's of Canon City will look like. Gertrude Hornswaggle, she is an employee of the Canon City Trust, and she said that in the 100,000 acre area around the Wet Mountain Peaks, that there is some areas where as many as 90% of the trees will be cut.