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## Summit County Citizens Voice

# Aerial cable-haul logging eyed for steep slopes in Summit

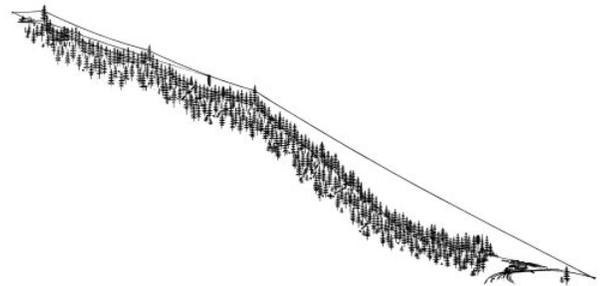
*Swiss engineering helps perfect mechanics needed for smooth operation of logging gear*

**By Bob Berwyn**

SUMMIT COUNTY — After a recent visit to Switzerland, Daymon Pascual is more convinced than ever that aerial cable-haul logging — done right — could be the answer to clearing beetle-killed trees from steep slopes, sensitive watersheds and even at local ski resorts.

By using gravity, along with a combination of pulleys, motorized winches and cables, the system can be used to remove timber from hillsides and other areas where road-building and mechanized access are challenging. Pascual says it's a way to do the needed work while leaving a much smaller environmental footprint on the land. *Summit Voice first reported on Pascual's efforts here.*

(<https://summitcountyvoice.com/2010/02/26/zip-line-logging-for-local-beetle-killed-forests/>)



([https://summitvoice.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/side\\_drawing\\_of\\_set\\_up.jpg](https://summitvoice.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/side_drawing_of_set_up.jpg))

Cable-haul systems can help land managers transport timber over rugged mountain terrain.

## Skyline Solutions in Action



### *More after the break...*

Cable-haul logging has been used in small-scale forestry operations in the U.S. for decades but has been replaced with ground-traveling skidding and hauling equipment in most commercial operations simply due to the scale of most projects. On national forest lands, environmental constraints often mean that steep slopes are simply left out of proposed treatment areas.

As well, the equipment has developed a reputation for being unreliable and difficult to set up and operate. But the latest high-tech versions from Wyssen Cable-Ways (<http://www.wyssen.com/en/index.php>), the Swiss company that Pascual visited puts those concerns to rest. Most of the mechanical issues have been resolved, and the Swiss gear is already being used on wide scale in the Alps and New Zealand for environmentally sensitive logging projects. “I really want to dispel the idea that it’s a pain,” Pascual said. “Yeah, you need people who are willing to hike around in the woods to set it up, and most loggers don’t want to do that,” he said, referring to modern practices that rely on mechanized equipment.

In general, many loggers are fairly set on the way they do things, so part of Pascual's mission is just to get this concept into peoples' collective consciousness. He's convinced that low-impact logging can benefit local communities economically. provide a renewable resource and help improve forest health.

Pascual is hoping to partner with Wyssen to bring some of the equipment to Colorado, at least for a few pilot projects to demonstrate how efficiently the gear can work. At this point, he's still at the stage of finalizing a business plan, and he's looking for potential partners and investors. But the Skyline Solutions website (<http://www.skylinesolutions.us/>) gives a pretty good idea of what he's aiming for. Pascual said he saw skyline cables operating over distances up to about one mile in Switzerland, a distance that would give loggers some additional reach without having to build as many roads. The cables can be suspended intermittently using supports off existing trees, or by installing temporary towers. The winches can be pulled into place along the cable or delivered by helicopter.

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Bob Berwyn  
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## 2 thoughts on “Aerial cable-haul logging eyed for steep slopes in Summit”

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