

Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District
Name of Property

Larimer, CO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
5		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC / institutional housing
- GOVERNMENT / government office
- LANDSCAPE / forest
-
-
-
-

- GOVERNMENT / government office
- LANDSCAPE / forest
-
-
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- OTHER: Forest Service Rustic
-
-
-
-

- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: WOOD: log, weatherboard
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: BRICK
- STONE: granite

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District is located off the east side of Dowdy Lake Road in the unincorporated town of Red Feather Lakes in Larimer County, Colorado.¹ The Forest Service access road into the station is approximately 1360 feet north of the intersection of Dowdy Lake Road and W County Road 74E / Red Feather Lakes Road. The Red Feather Lakes community, located about 46 miles northwest of Fort Collins, is known for its recreational opportunities and remote scenic beauty. The district is part of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, which encompasses 1.5 million acres in north central Colorado.

The ranger station and the many lakes, campgrounds and seasonal homes in the area are at an elevation of approximately 8200 feet. The elevation of the surrounding mountains, including the Mummy Range, varies from 8000 to more than 12000 feet. Part of the Front Range and the Southern Rocky Mountains, the Mummy Range extends 20 miles from the Roosevelt National Forest south to the Rocky Mountain National Park. The rugged landscape is characterized by lodgepole forests, rocky outcrops, native grasses, streams and irrigation ditches. Working with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Forest Service specifically designed and built the Redfeather Ranger Station in the 1930s to harmonize with its natural environment and to preserve the beauty of the scenic area.

Creation of the station began in 1936 with site selection and design, followed by the construction of a Garage, Combination Office, Ranger Dwelling, Assistant Ranger Dwelling and several small outbuildings between the years of 1937 and 1942. The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District illustrates the Forest Service's mature interpretation of the Rustic style, designed by agency architects and built with a high degree of workmanship by CCC enrollees using local timber and stone. The original site layout and landscape features such as fence lines, a stone incinerator and stone walkways and retaining walls also remain to document the station's history.

The district retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, materials, design, workmanship and association and clearly expresses the Forest Service design ideals of simplicity, harmony with nature, and use of natural materials (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The district boundary encompasses the 10.4 acre core of the ranger station complex, where rangers, staff and work crews lived and/or attended to administrative duties throughout the property's period of significance, 1936-1973. Sections of buck and pole fencing separate the historic core from surrounding Forest Service land, a modern helibase to the east and the two fire operations buildings to the north.

Changes to the property that occurred within the period of significance illustrate changing Forest Service administrative responsibilities and needs. These include the creation of a camper site for volunteer hosts at the visitor center in the Office and the removal of a CCC-era portable equipment shed, two small CCC-era bunkhouses, a reconstructed barn moved from another ranger station, and the superstructure of a wind tower. Alterations that post-date the district's period of significance are small scale: the removal of an oil shed and a flammable materials shed, moving a paint shed to a location east of the district, and the additions of a c.2002 well/pump house, updated weather monitoring equipment, and modern site furniture such as picnic tables, propane tanks, a firepit, small directional signs and horseshoe pit.

Narrative Description

Contributing Resources

Ranger Dwelling (AR0301), 1937-1939, photographs 1-13

The Ranger Dwelling at Redfeather Ranger Station is the most southern of the four buildings in the complex, located about 120 feet south of the Office and approximately 200 feet south of the access road into the station. The building is sited at the top of a small slope with the façade oriented to the southwest, taking advantage of scenic views to the Mummy Range. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region architect Arthur G. Longfellow designed the L-shaped one-story log building in the

¹ As a placename in the region, Red Feather is most commonly presented as two words. The names of the town, the lake and the region utilize "Red Feather." However, "Redfeather" has been used for the ranger station's name since its construction in the 1930s.

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Rustic style, adapted from plans for the Sunlight Ranger Station Ranger Dwelling at the Shoshone National Forest (Hartley and Schneck 1993b). Under the direction of Project Superintendent Walter Shore, CCC enrollees from Redfeather Lakes Camp F-50-C (Company 2805) built the dwelling, assisted by local carpenters, masons and plumbers (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946). The 1660 square foot house is 46'6" wide; a cross gable section projecting from the southern half of the facade creates a depth of 49'.

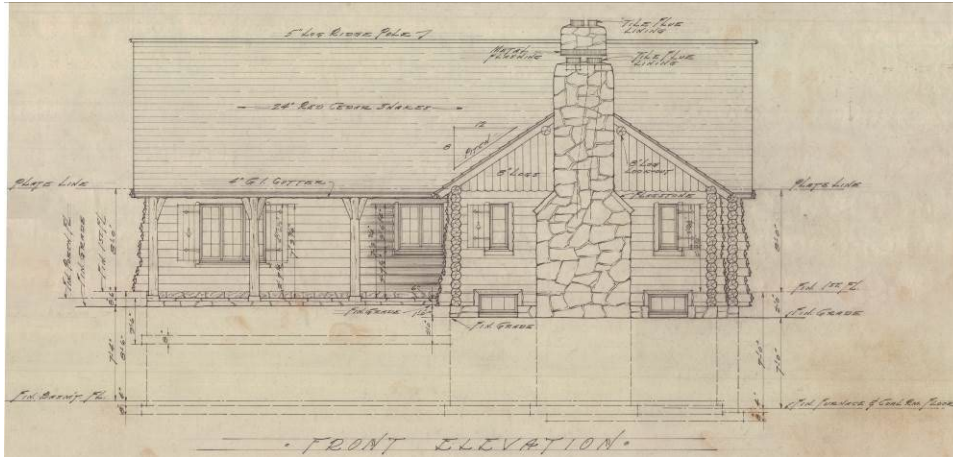


Figure 1: Façade elevation plan of the Sunlight Ranger Station Ranger Dwelling at the Shoshone National Forest. One of the design changes implemented when the plan was adapted for the Redfeather Ranger Dwelling was moving the fireplace to the left elevation of the projecting cross gable. Source: On file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

The dwelling sits on a poured concrete foundation, veneered above ground with rough-cut rectangular granite.² The 9" diameter shaved log walls are tightly fitted, with little visible caulking or daubing. The corners are saddle notched; crown lengths vary randomly from one to two feet, with roughly pointed ends.

The building's intersecting gable roofs are sheathed with asphalt shingles. On each of the three gable ends, two pair of extended log purlins and a log ridgepole support the overhanging roof and log rake trim. Log sheathing, 8" in diameter, in the upper gables is laid vertically. Bluntly pointed log exposed rafter tails project from the eaves. Copper gutters with downspouts line the eaves. A tall chimney built with rough-cut largely rectangular stone on the northwest elevation of the cross gable dominates the facade. An unusually shaped chimney cap was added prior to 1949 (U.S. Forest Service various dates). The cap consists of a T-shaped tapered metal pipe; two lengths of diagonal metal pipes project from each end of the top of the T (see photographs 1, 2 and 6).³ A second lower chimney with similar stonework pierces the south end of the lateral ridge line.

An open porch shelters the dwelling's entry in the crook of the cross gable. The entry door – built with standard Forest Service 6" wide wood "V" Rustic siding joined by tongue and groove joints – has a 2x3 fixed pane upper window and a stone threshold.⁴ The door is framed with 4" rounded wood trim and protected by a modern wood storm door. Three log columns with paired log brackets support the engaged porch roof. Flat boards of random widths sheath the porch ceiling. The sides of the raised porch continue the foundation's rough-cut stone veneer, topped with irregularly shaped flagstones.

² Forest Service memos written during construction document differing opinions as to the best stone for use in the dwelling's foundation, porch, chimneys and fireplace. Plans called for the use of native or local granite. Given the difficulty of splitting local granite into a veneer and of procuring sufficient amounts nearby, substituting sandstone from nearby Livermore was also considered. The idea, however, was rejected due to the soft characteristics of sandstone, particularly when heated. Instead, the Rocky Mountain Region Office suggested "hard durable native rock, preferably covered with lichen" for the fireplace. As built, the fireplace stone is comparable to that used on the exterior chimney. Flagstones for the project came from Fort Collins. (U.S. Forest Service 1936-46).

³ A local company may have produced the chimney cap. Other examples in Colorado include at a former girl scout ranch in Deckers and at a recreation residence in the Poudre Canyon.

⁴ In the 1930s, the Forest Service created a standardized plan for interior and exterior doors in Rustic style buildings, using 6" wide vertical boards with beveled edges, joined by half-lapped (interior doors) or tongue and groove (exterior doors) joints. Forest Service building plans identify the boards as "V" Rustic siding (see figure 21). Similar boards were also used for Rustic style shutters.

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Two stone steps are centered on the porch, leading to a flagstone pathway and the Office. The building's other entry, on the rear elevation, has a similar wood door with a 2x2 fixed pane upper window protected by a screen door, with a half-round log surround and an at-grade stone landing.

A majority of the windows on the main floor are wood casements with 2x4 lights, arranged in groups of two, three or four. The windows are framed with 4" rounded wood trim, flanked by wood "V" Rustic board shutters decorated with tree cutouts and secured with elongated iron strap hinges and S-shaped iron dogs. Paired casements flank a single pane picture window on the projecting gable end, providing views of the surrounding mountains and lakes in the living room. Three paired casements in the kitchen at the east corner of the dwelling have 2x3 lights and higher sills than elsewhere in the dwelling. Windows in the basement are 1x3 fixed sash hoppers, with small dimension half-round log trim and stone stills.

The interior of the dwelling is divided into a living room, dining room and kitchen in the southern half of the building and three bedrooms and a bathroom in the northern half. A foyer, hallway and stairs to the basement separate the two. The continued use of wood prevails throughout the interior.⁵ With the exception of sheetrock used in the kitchen, bath and rear stair hall, all interior room walls and partitions are log. The floors are oak, and the ceilings are sheathed with flat boards of random widths. Interior doors are solid and are also comprised of 6" wide "V" Rustic siding, with rounded wood surrounds. The basement is divided into several rooms and has painted concrete floors and walls with exposed utilities.

The living room's massive stone fireplace is the most prominent Rustic style interior feature. Other Rustic details include double leaf wood "V" Rustic board doors leading from the entry to the dining room, an enlarged opening with a double log surround between the living room and foyer, and a log phone nook in the center hall

Native grasses and mature pines surround the Ranger Dwelling. A rough-cut stone retaining wall, approximately three feet high, provides a narrow flat yard area behind the house. A short flagstone path leads from the rear entry landing to six stone steps through the retaining wall to a parking area. A less formal walkway of separate flat rectangular stones runs the length of the yard area along the back of the dwelling. Two sets of clothesline supports made of T-shaped metal pipes remain in the side yard west of the dwelling (J.P. - D.P. 1966, photograph 43).

The Ranger Dwelling is well maintained and has seen very little alteration since its construction. Changes include the expansion of two basement windows to serve as emergency exits prior to 1993, the replacement of its wood roof shingles with asphalt, and updates to the kitchen and bathroom in 2021 (Hartley and Schneck 1993b).

Combination Office Building, (AR0303), 1937-1938, photographs 14-21

The Combination Office at Redfeather Ranger Station is located about 400' from the station entrance on the south side of the station access road, approximately 120 feet northwest of the Ranger Dwelling. CCC enrollees from Redfeather Lakes Camp F-50-C (Company 2805) constructed the building in the Forest Service Rustic style from 1937-1938 using local stone and timber. Designs for the building originated in Rocky Mountain Region's Division of Engineering in February 1937, but a designer is not listed.⁶ The Office shares many of the architectural details as the Ranger Dwelling and their construction overlapped (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

The Office is a log, one story, side gable building measuring approximately 32' long by 22'6" wide (Hartley and Schneck 1993b). It rests on a concrete foundation, veneered with rough-cut granite stones above grade. Tightly laid 9" diameter logs comprise the walls, with saddle notch corners. Crown lengths vary randomly from one to two feet and are finished with roughly pointed ends. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. On each gable end, two pair of extended log purlins and a log ridgepole support the overhanging gable and log rake trim. Above the extended log purlins, 8" diameter log sheathing is laid vertically. Bluntly pointed log exposed rafter tails project under the eaves. On the northwest gable end, a narrow wood attic vent is centered under the ridge. At the center of the southeast elevation, a rough-cut stone chimney pierces the projecting roof overhang. Copper gutters with downspouts line the lateral eaves

All windows in the Office are paired wood casements, with 2x4 lights, framed with rounded wood trim and sills. The basement windows are 1x3 fixed sash wood hoppers, framed with small dimension rounded wood trim. A coal chute door

⁵ The prevalence of wood in the interior of the ranger dwelling probably contributed to complaints about its darkness. Forest Service memorandums dating from as early as the 1940s document options to "lighten the interior" (U.S. Forest 1936-1946).

⁶ A designer is not listed on many of the Rustic style plans for administrative buildings originating in the Rocky Mountain Region during this time period (Hartley and Schneck 1996). Specific aspects of the Office - plans for the casework dated December 15, 1938 and for the subterranean concrete engine room dated May 8, 1937 - list architect W.E. Jackson as the designer.

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remains on the rear elevation, south of the rear entry. Unlike the two log dwellings on the station, the windows in the Office lack wood shutters decorated with tree cutouts.

The main entry is located off-center to the south on the façade, flanked by paired casement windows. The wood door consists of 6" wide "V" Rustic vertical siding joined by tongue and groove joints with a 2x2 fixed sash upper light and a rounded wood surround. A metal door knocker designed to look like a Forest Service emblem is centered under the window; a historic sign identifying the building as an Office hangs to the left of the entry. Stone steps lead to a five foot square stone entry landing. Based on photographic evidence, the porch's original log railings along each side of the landing were removed sometime before 1961 (U.S. Forest Service various dates). Secondary access to the Office is through a comparable door and an at-grade stone landing roughly centered on the rear elevation.



Figure 2: A July 1949 photograph of the Office, showing the extant entrance sign and the front porch balustrade, removed prior to 1961. Source: Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

As designed, the Office combined a room for office functions with a small bedroom for visiting Forest Service employees, a single vehicle garage with a workbench, and a staircase leading to workspaces in the basement. As part of its push to improve the efficiency and appearance of ranger stations, in the early 1930s the Forest Service first published standardized plans for buildings that combined several administrative functions – such as office space, visitor accommodations, storage and garages. Although the Redfeather Office design was based on standard plan B85, several design changes were made during construction. The footprint was slightly enlarged, knotty pine replaced the use of Nu-Wood for interior ceilings, and a subterranean engine room was added off the rear elevation, changing the arrangement of basement workspaces. The most visible change was moving the garage doors on the façade to the rear elevation in order to enhance the scenic nature of station.⁷ Additionally, paired casement windows replaced single casements on either side of the front entry. Today, two paired casement windows with 2x3 lights have replaced the garage door on the rear elevation; this alteration probably dates to the 1951 when the Forest Service converted the garage area to additional office space (Hartley and Schneck 1993b).⁸

⁷ The regional office produced two designs for the front elevation of the Office, both dated February 23, 1937. One showed a garage door on the front, the other a pair of casement windows in that location, as built (Hartley and Schneck 1993b).

⁸ Although little physical evidence of the garage space remains today, an agency memorandum from September 16, 1939 addresses flooding issues that occurring "around the small garage and rear of office." The suggestion to move the garage doors from the façade to the rear elevation was first discussed in a memorandum dated December 19, 1936 from District Ranger Bruce Torgny (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

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The interior of the building continues to reflect its post-1951 alterations. Many of the building's original interior architectural features remain, including log walls and partitions, knotty pine ceilings, vertical "V" board Rustic wood doors, and rounded wood trim surrounding the doors and windows. In December 1938, Rocky Mountain Regional Architect W. Earle Jackson designed a large wood case for the front office, with upper cabinets and a lower section with two central wood cabinets flanked by three stacked file drawers. The case remains in place today, although the upper doors and shelves have been removed. Linoleum tiles cover the original oak flooring.

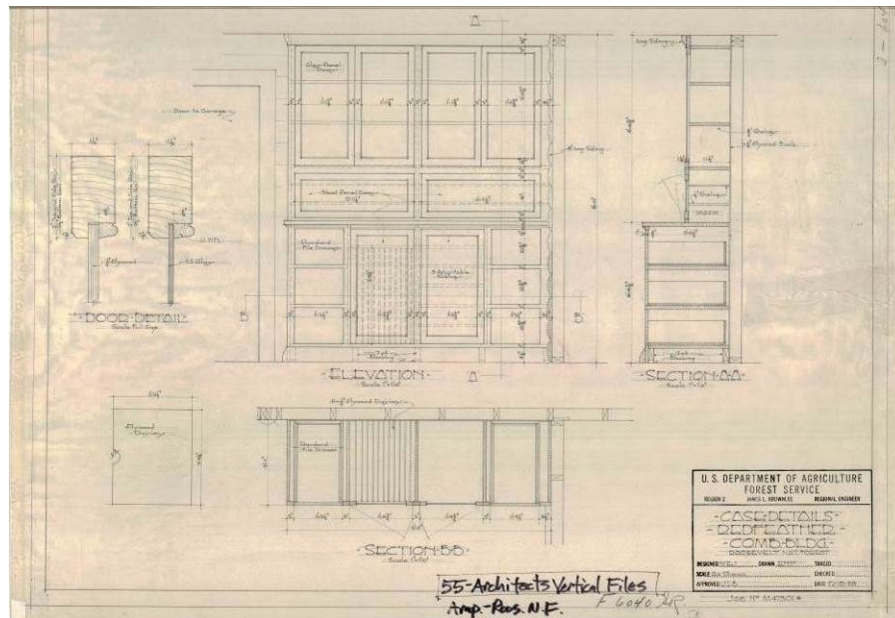


Figure 3: Designs for the case details in the Redfeather Combination Office by Rocky Mountain Regional Architect W. Earle Jackson. Source: On file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

An informational kiosk of unknown date and a visitor parking area are located between the Office and the station access road. Staff parking is located behind the Office. Flagstone walkways link the Office and the Ranger Dwelling.⁹ A three-sided metal antennae is centered on northwest side of the Office, supported by brackets near the ridge of the roof. A wood flagpole is located in the front yard. Since 1938, the removal of the porch railing, the 1951 alteration of the garage into office space, and the recent addition of asphalt roof shingles are the main changes to the Office.

Assistant Ranger Dwelling (AR0302), 1941-42, photographs 22-30

The Assistant Ranger Dwelling sits near the top of a small hill near the northern edge of the historic district, overlooking the rest of the ranger station to the south. It was the last building constructed by enrollees from Redfeather Lakes Camp F-50-C at the station before the CCC program was shut down in 1942. Forest Service personnel and hired contractors completed the project. It shares many of the same Forest Service Rustic style architectural details seen in the Ranger Dwelling and the Office. No plans have been located for the building, although Forest Service records suggest its design was based on a dwelling on the Grand Mesa National Forest.¹⁰

The one story, side gable log building measures 35' long by 30'6" deep. It is supported by a raised concrete foundation, covered with a veneer of rough-cut rectangular stones above grade. Similar stonework is used on the front porch, the fireplace and the one remaining chimney. Tightly laid, peeled and smoothed logs comprise the walls, joined with saddle notch corners. Crown lengths vary randomly from one to two feet, finished with bluntly pointed ends. On each gable end, logs are laid vertically above the eave line; narrow wood attic vents are centered below the ridge. Two pair of extended log

⁹ An inspection memorandum dated August 31, 1939 describes the almost complete Redfeather Ranger Station as "a very fine development with well graded yards and unusually good stone walks" (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

¹⁰ The comparable example was located either on the Big Creek Lakes Ranger Station or the Mesa Lakes Ranger Station on the Grand Mesa Forest (Hartley and Schneck 1996). It appears to be the building now advertised as "Moose Manor" cabin, advertised as a rental on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests at recreation.gov.

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purlins and a log ridgepole support the overhanging gable ends. Smaller dimension half-round logs trim the gable ends. Bluntly pointed log exposed rafter tails project under the eaves, lined with metal gutters with downspouts.

The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A double flue stone chimney is centered on the eastern half of the roof ridge. In addition, historic photographs show that a single flue stone chimney was previously located on the front roof slope; it probably served a kitchen stove and was removed between 1961 and 1967 (U.S. Forest Service various dates). Along the western half of the facade, the roof extends two feet, supported by log brackets, providing shade to the south-facing kitchen windows. A pair of window box brackets below the kitchen windows are also log.

Door and window details on the Assistant Ranger Dwelling differ from the Ranger Dwelling and Office, perhaps reflecting its later construction date. Paired casements with four horizontal panes and small dimension log lintels and sills are flanked by plywood shutters decorated with tree cutouts and secured with elongated iron hinges and S-shaped iron dogs. Casement windows in the kitchen have three horizontal panes and are shorter than those lighting the living room and bedrooms. Basement windows are wood 1x3 fixed sash hoppers with projecting stone lintels. The southern basement window on the east elevation was replaced with a larger emergency exit window sometime before 1993 (Hartley and Schneck 1993b). An iron coal chute door scuttle remains in the foundation on the west elevation.

Stone steps and a roughly 5' by 10' stone-faced porch lead to the center entry on the façade. As built, a log balustrade surrounded the front porch. By 1967 it had been removed; a modern dimension lumber railing is now in its place (U.S. Forest Service various dates). Also in the 1960s, the current wood entry door with three stepped upper lights replaced a more rustic wood one with prominent elongated iron hinges and a single small upper light (U.S. Forest Service various dates). The entry is framed with log boards. A second entrance, leading to the basement steps and kitchen, is centered on the west elevation. The wood door consists of 6" wide "V" Rustic vertical wood boards with a single small upper window, log trim and a stone threshold. Several stone steps and a stone landing lead to the side door.

Interior spaces in the Assistant Ranger Dwelling include a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, a partially finished basement, and basement stair hall. Historic interior finishes are largely intact. Knotty pine ceilings, oak floors and log cabin siding on some interior partitions remain throughout; knotty pine boards are also used for the rear hall and basement stair walls. Throughout the main floor, interior doors are made of wood "V" Rustic vertical boards. Rounded wood trim surrounds the doors and windows. In the living room, a ceiling-high fireplace made of rough-cut rectangular stones and an elongated flagstone hearth surround a later Colony Hearth wood stove insert. The basement, kitchen and bathroom have seen minor updates through time.

Large pines shade portions of the yard surrounding the Assistant Ranger Dwelling. A pair of T-shaped pipe clothesline supports remain in the backyard (J.P. – D.P. 1966, photograph 25). An unpaved driveway leads from the station access road to the east side of the house. Historic photographs show that stone steps once connected the front porch and the driveway (U.S. Forest Service various dates). Today, wood plank steps connect the porch with the station access road down a steep hill. The changed location of the steps, the altered front porch railing and entry door, the removal of one chimney, and the addition of asphalt roof shingles and an emergency exit window into basement are the only exterior changes to the Assistant Rangers Dwelling since its construction.

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Figure 4: A July 1949 photograph of the Assistant Ranger Dwelling, showing the original front door, kitchen chimney and log front porch railing, all three removed prior to 1967. Source: Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Garage (AR0304) 1937, photographs 31-37

The Garage sits in a clearing about 200 feet east of the Office, somewhat screened by trees from the rest of the historic district. The unpaved station access road leads to a parking area in front of the Garage and to work and equipment storage areas behind it. The Garage is the largest building at Redfeather Ranger Station and is the only wood frame one. Built by enrollees in the CCC F-50-C camp, the Garage is one of at least three extant examples in Colorado of a standard plan that contained a workshop, garage and storages spaces, designed by the Rocky Mountain Region's Division of Engineering.¹¹

The Garage measures 72' by 30' feet and sits on a concrete slab foundation. The walls are sheathed with wide wood clapboard siding, secured at the corners with flared metal brackets. Its side gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles and has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. Metal gutters with downspouts line the lateral eaves. A brick stove chimney is located on the north roof slope, toward the northeast end of the garage. Five garage bays line the façade (southwest elevation). A narrow sloped concrete apron lines the façade, providing smooth access into the garage bays. Between 1949 and 1967, the Forest Service replaced the Garage's original vertical plank doors with the current overhead wood panel doors (U.S. Forest Service various dates).

A wood pass door, centered on the northwest gable end and topped with a 3x1 pane transom, enters the shop area. All other windows in the Garage have 6/6 double hung sash and plain board frames. On the northwest elevation, paired windows flank the pass door; a single window in the gable end lights a loft storage space. The fenestration is comparable on the southeast elevation, without a pass door. Six evenly spaced windows line the rear elevation.

The interior first floor is divided into a shop area in the north bay and four large open stalls in the remaining portion of the Garage. The interior walls and ceilings are typically unfinished or sheathed with wood horizontal planks. The floors are concrete. A staircase to a loft storage space is located between the shop and the four open bays. Replacing the garage

¹¹ The other two extant examples are located at Buckhorn Ranger Station, also on the Roosevelt National Forest, and at the Mancos Ranger District on the San Juan National Forest. The standard plan, numbered B6, is also known as the Mancos Plan. Plan inventories list two other possible examples: at the Encampment Ranger Station on the Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming and at the Yampa Ranger Station on the White River National Forest in Colorado (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

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bay doors and the original wood roof shingles with asphalt shingles are the only exterior changes to the building since its construction.



Figure 5: July 1949 photograph of the Garage showing the original bay doors, replaced by the current doors prior to 1967. Source: Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Site and Landscape, various dates, photographs 38-56

Redfeather Ranger Station is located on a 10.4 acre wedge-shaped parcel on the northwestern shore of West Lake, approximately .25 miles north of the intersection of Dowdy Lake and Red Feather Lakes roads. The property sits at an elevation of approximately 8200' and slopes gently south toward West Lake. Rock outcrops, lodgepole pines, Douglas fir and various native shrubs and grasses characterize the landscape. Log fences line much of the property's perimeter.

The property took on its current appearance in the 1930s; prior to then, the Forest Service leased it to a private individual for pasture. Early plans of the station show scattered timbers and rock outcrops throughout the property, existing fences and private land north and east of the proposed Garage, and the Greeley-Poudre Ditch feeding into West Lake along the southern edge of the station (Smith 1936, see figure 6).¹²

Extant historic features at the ranger station site include its layout and circulation network, an entrance sign, an incinerator, and the substructure of a now-removed wind tower:

Circulation Network, 1936-1942, (photographs 31, 38-39): From Dowdy Lake Road, a gravel access road leads into the Redfeather Ranger Station. A cluster of vertical logs with hand-hewn pointed tops flank the gated entrance, connecting with buck and pole perimeter fencing to the south and north. Just east of the entrance, a two-track driveway leads to the recreational vehicle site used by visitor center hosts in the Office, at least since the 1960s (J.P. – D.P. 1966). The station access road passes between the Assistant Ranger Dwelling and the public parking area adjacent to the Office, leading to a parking area and turn around in front of the Garage. North and east of the Garage, smaller gravel roads lead to the former locations of a CCC era portable equipment shed and a cap cache and powder house beyond the station's perimeter fence (R.F.B. and Blackmer 1944-1954). Today these lead to two fire operations buildings and a helibase, built in 2002 north and east of the historic district boundary, respectively.¹³

¹² A series of irrigation ditches and natural streams feed the Red Feather Lakes, connecting downstream with Lone Pine Creek and the Cache la Poudre River.

¹³ The helibase includes a small modern log building housing an office and pilot ready room, a 20' by 20' concrete landing pad for a single helicopter, a 5' by 12' equipment shed, and two windsocks. The area is gated and fenced (Nelson 2005).

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Figure 7: The station entrance sign in 1969, since replaced with the current sign. Source: Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, on file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Incinerator, c.1930s (photographs 41-42): An outdoor incinerator is located about 60 feet northeast of the Ranger Dwelling and Office. Repairs to the fireplace are underway. Stone used for the exterior shell of the incinerator is shaped into rough blocks and is similar to the local stone used in the foundations, chimneys and fireplaces throughout the complex. Given the stonework, the incinerator appears to date from the construction of the station and to be the work of CCC enrollees. Incinerators would have served essential functions in the 1930s at both ranger stations and CCC camps. The Forest Service issued standard plans for their construction (see figure 8).

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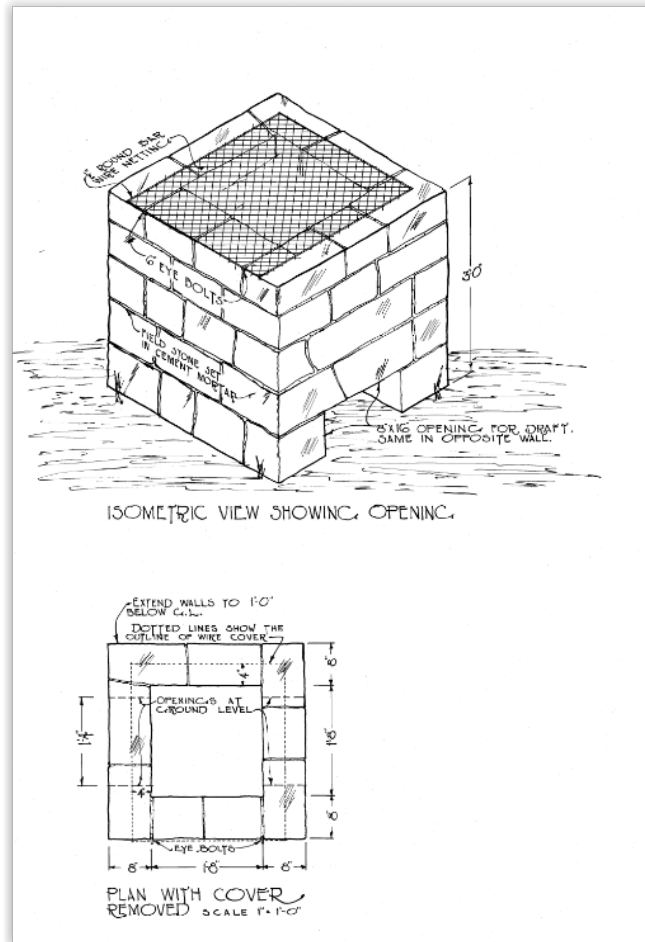


Figure 8: U.S. Forest Service Incinerator Plan R-4 #103 B-1, dated May 11, 1935. Accompanying specifications noted that a "capable rock mason should be engaged" to construct the incinerator. Source: On file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Wind tower footings, 1945 (photographs 44-48): On a small rocky hill approximately 200 feet north of the Office and 80 feet west of the Garage, four concrete footings topped with metal brackets remain from a wind tower in use at ranger station from 1945 to about 1952. The footings are arranged in a square. Three of the four are roughly square with small variations in height. The fourth footing, at the southwest corner, is noticeably taller with sloped sides, due to its location lower on the hill.

As was the case at many rural ranger stations, an improved electrical system at Redfeather assumed increasing importance in the mid-20th century, when many households and offices began to rely more heavily on electricity. In 1945, the Forest Service installed a 110 volt electrical plant at the station. Power was supplied by the wind tower – also called a windcharger – and stored in batteries located in the subterranean engine room in the Office. Station correspondence throughout 1945 and 1946 conveys the difficulties of using the new technology, exacerbated by supply chain issues, the availability of experienced local electricians, and a long-time labor strike at General Electric and other equipment manufacturers. System improvements included raising the height of the tower from 40 to 70 feet, updating underground wiring, and the installation of a new standby plant to charge the battery bank when sufficient wind was not available.¹⁴ The tower superstructure was removed after electrical distribution lines were brought to the area in 1952.

¹⁴ The earlier gasoline-powered standby plant in the engine room was aging and judged to be unsatisfactory for current station requirements (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

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Figure 9: A July 5, 1949 view of the station wind tower, barely visible above the trees behind the Office. Source: Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, on file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Buck and pole fencing (photographs 1, 6, 38, 41, 43) lines parts of the perimeter of the ranger station complex. The fence line is most intact near the station entrance and along the Dowdy Lake Road frontage. Agency correspondence in 1937 and 1938 provided guidance as to the placement and types of fencing to be constructed.¹⁵ A 1944 site plan also depicts the location of fencing (R.F.B. and Blackmer 1944, see also figure 23). Since then, the fences have largely remained in the same location but only portions remain. They have been repaired or replaced through time. Although the fences are not historic, they continue to be made of log and do not detract from the district's integrity.

The removal of the wind tower and several wood-frame outbuildings are the only other modifications to the original design and layout of the Redfeather Ranger Station site. In the mid-20th century, the Forest Service reused two CCC-era temporary bunkhouses to accommodate seasonal work crews (see figure 16). The six person and four person bunkhouses were located about 200 feet east of the Ranger Dwelling; they were removed in the late 1960s after the station's full time staff moved to Fort Collins, freeing up the Ranger Dwelling for use as a bunkhouse (U.S. Forest Service 1961-2012).

In 2008, the Forest Service removed a c.1940 oil house, a c.1940 outhouse being utilized as a storage shed for flammable materials, and a wood-frame fire cache building.¹⁶ The latter was built in the early 20th century as a barn at the former Manhattan Ranger Station and was moved to Redfeather in the late 1930s, where it was briefly used as a barn and then as a fire cache until at least 1966 (J.P. – D.P. 1966, see figures 10 and 12).¹⁷

¹⁵ Agency memoranda from August 16, 1937 and January 22, 1938 discuss the proposed fencing, which was based on one used at the Pactola Ranger Station in the Black Hills, SD, and standard plan M-187 (U.S. Forest Service, 1936-1946).

¹⁶ The Colorado State Historic Preservation Office reviewed the 2008 project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and concurred with the Forest Service's findings that the three outbuildings did not contribute to the overall National Register eligibility of the Redfeather Ranger Station and that no historic properties would be affected by the project (U.S. Forest Service 1961-2012).

¹⁷ A 1949 photograph shows a small metal fire cache located next to the Redfeather Garage (see figure 5). Beginning about 1917, long-time Roosevelt National Forest Supervisor William Kreutzer encouraged the use of these types of smaller portable fire tool caches, set up at strategic locations throughout the Forest. Its current location is unknown.

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Figure 10: A September 1961 view of the former barn / fire cache building, first located at the Manhattan Ranger Station and then moved onto a concrete foundation approximately 100 feet east of the Garage at Redfeather. Source: U.S. Forest Service 1961-2012.

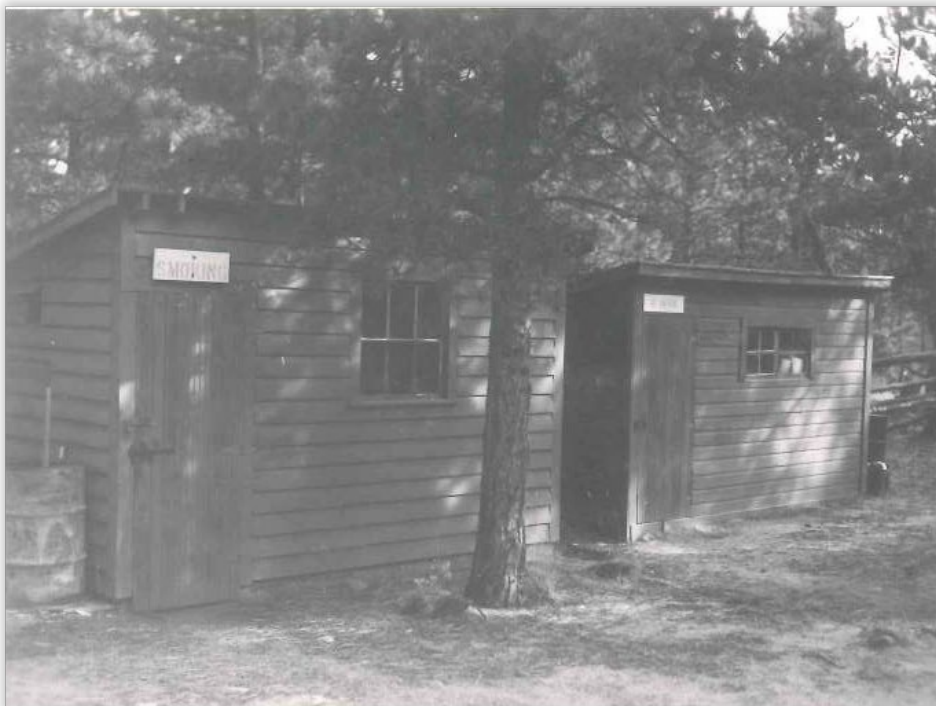


Figure 11: A September 1961 view of the former oil and paint houses, located behind the Garage along the northern boundary of the historic district. The Forest Service removed the oil house in 2008. The paint house is now located east of the district, near the helibase (see photographs 53 and 54). Source: J.P. - D.P. 1966, U.S. Forest Service 1961-2012.

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A c.2002 well/pump house in the northwest corner of the district (see photograph 56), updated weather monitoring equipment (see photograph 55), and site furniture such as a fire pit, a horseshoe pit, propane tanks and picnic tables are the only modern additions to the ranger station. A small portable log building is stored on a trailer along the eastern boundary of the district. It serves as "Smokey Bear's House" during annual Forest Service sponsored Christmas tree sales (see back left corner, photograph 41). Given their small scale and/or reversible nature, none of these detract from the district's historic setting.

Non-Contributing Resources

The four buildings and one site within the Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District each contribute to its historic and architectural significance and retain high levels of integrity. There are no non-contributing properties in the district.

Integrity

The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District strongly conveys its historic and architectural significance through its well preserved contributing buildings and landscape. Historic site features, such as site layout and circulation patterns, the stone incinerator, and stone walkways and retaining walls reinforce the district's integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, location and association. In addition, the district's larger scenic environment of lodgepole stands and rocky outcrops with views to nearby lakes and mountains enhances the district's integrity of feeling, association, setting and location. The only modern additions to the district – a well/pump house, updating weather monitoring equipment, and site furniture such as picnic tables, propane tanks, a fire pit, and a horseshoe court – are reversible, compatible and in scale to the district's natural historic landscape.

The district's four buildings retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, both individually and in relation to each other. The most architecturally significant character defining features of the three log buildings are well preserved: the hand-hewn log construction; wood "V" Rustic siding doors and casement windows with log surrounds and shutters; stonework on foundations, chimneys, porches, walkways and retaining walls, and building massing, scale and fenestration patterns. The presence and cohesiveness of these character defining features showcase the integrity of design, materials and workmanship of both the individual buildings and the district and strengthen their integrity of location, setting, feeling and association.

Exterior changes such as the removal of a kitchen chimney and the original entry door at the Assistant Ranger Dwelling and the alteration of porch railings at the Office and the Assistant Ranger Dwelling occurred during the district's period of significance and do not change the ability of either building or the district to convey historic and architectural associations. The addition of emergency exits in three basement windows of the two dwellings was a life safety improvement and was sensitively executed, preserving the greatest extent of original building materials and workmanship possible. The replacement of wood roof shingles with asphalt shingles serves as a fire prevention measure for all four buildings in a fire-prone region. The conversion of garage space into office space in the Office and the replacement of the bay doors on the Garage also occurred within the district's period of significance and were compatible with the original design, workmanship and materials of both buildings.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1936 – 1973

Significant Dates

1936 – 1942

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Arthur G. Longfellow, Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region (architect)

W. Earle Jackson, Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Architect (architect)

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) (builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, areas of significance, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level for its important associations with the administrative history and conservation mission of the Forest Service, particularly during its rapid expansion given the resources of Depression era programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In addition, the district has statewide architectural significance as one of the best preserved examples of a Rustic style ranger station in Colorado. Its buildings, landscape and site plan are a mature expression of the Forest Service Rustic style, designed by agency architects and engineers and built in its entirety by CCC enrollees from the nearby Red Feather Lakes Camp. The Forest Service continues to manage and use the ranger station. The district has seen little change since its completion and retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship and materials for its architectural and historic associations. The district's period of significance begins in 1936 when the site for the new ranger station was selected and designed and ends with the National Register program's fifty-year cut off of 1973.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Politics and Government

The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District has significant associations at the local level with the U.S. Forest Service and its expanding mission and responsibilities throughout the 20th century to manage timber, wildlife, range, water and recreational resources. The period of significance for the district's associations within this context is 1936-1973, reflecting the Forest Service's construction of the station from 1936 to 1942 and its continuing use to the present time. The district's period of significance for this context ends in 1973, in keeping with the National Register program's 50-year cut off requirement. Ranger stations were, and continue to be, an important part of the administrative structure in a National Forest, providing efficient bases of operations, staff housing, and a common first point of contact for the public in otherwise remote locations.

The history of the Forest Service has local significance in the Red Feather Lakes region, where much of the land is designated as National Forest. The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District is located on the Roosevelt National Forest, parts of which were set aside as National Forest in 1902 and 1908 and then expanded and designated as the Colorado National Forest in 1910 (Hartley and Schneck 1996). It replaced one of the earliest stations on the Forest, the c.1905 Manhattan Ranger Station. The Forest was renamed the Roosevelt National Forest in 1932.

The current station complex is especially associated with the significant work of the Forest Service and the federal government during the New Deal era. The historic district clearly illustrates the role of the CCC in expanding both the administrative infrastructure and conservation mission of the Forest Service. Of the six CCC companies working on the 800,000+ acre Roosevelt National Forest during the New Deal, the Red Feather Lakes Company, F-50-C, operated the longest. Subsequent uses of the station as housing for work crews, as a visitor center, and as a base for fire operations illustrate changing agency responsibilities and the need for flexible crew housing and workspaces in remote locations from the mid-to late 20th century. Through time, the ranger station also made significant contributions to the town of Red Feather Lakes through activities such as issuing permits for various uses on Forest lands, operating several popular campgrounds and hiking trails, monitoring local climate and fire conditions, and serving as a visitors center. The Forest Service also lent its support to local initiatives to clarify water rights to and ownership of the area's many lakes in the 1940s and to bring electric distribution lines to the community in the 1950s.

Conservation

The history of the Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District reflects the trends, goals and influences that shaped the conservation work of the Forest Service and has local significance. The period of significance for the district's associations with conservation begins in 1936, when the Forest Service began planning and developing the new station, and ends with the National Register program's 50-year cut off, currently 1973. During the New Deal era, CCC enrollees and Forest Service personnel headquartered at the Redfeather Ranger Station carried out significant land conservation efforts. In addition to expanding the agency's built infrastructure at Redfeather Ranger Station, CCC enrollees on Roosevelt improved timber stands; built recreational facilities, fire lookouts, and telephone lines; responded to forest fires and other emergencies, and constructed and maintained Forest roads and bridges, among other projects. The CCC program had an

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immediate and lasting impact, enabling the Forest Service to expand and intensify conservation activities. Describing this incredibly productive period for the agency, author Robert W. Audretsch concludes:

With increased New Deal funding, the Forest Service was able to increase the development of recreation and resource protection and the enhancement of its transportation networks. When the CCC ended, more conservation and recreation work had been accomplished by one organization than in any other period in American environmental history (Audretsch 2017:6).

Post-World War II, conservation work continued at Redfeather Ranger Station as the Forest Service consolidated administrative functions and more commonly relied on seasonal work crews to complete its mission throughout the forest. In the 1960s and 1970s, new federal laws protecting natural resources and the public's renewed interest in environmentalism and outdoor recreation increased the Forest Service's workload at Redfeather and elsewhere. Since then and continuing today, the ranger station provides seasonal housing for work crews and serves as a visitors center and base for fire operations in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, established in 1994 with the merger of a number of smaller ranger districts.

Architecture

The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District is significant at the statewide level as a well-preserved example of a classic Rustic style ranger station designed by the Forest Service's architectural and engineering divisions and constructed by CCC enrollees. Its architectural period of significance begins in 1936 with site selection and planning for the new ranger station and continues through 1942, the year the last building on the station, the Assistant Ranger Dwelling, was completed. Redfeather Ranger Station retains a high degree of all aspects of integrity for its architectural significance and is noteworthy as an architect-designed example of the Rustic style and as the product of a single CCC camp, the Red Feather Lakes Camp, F-50-C.

In the 1930s and early 1940s, the resources offered by New Deal programs allowed the Forest Service to meet pressing needs for administrative infrastructure throughout the country's national forests. In the Rocky Mountain Region, the combined efforts of architects working in the agency's new Architectural Division and CCC enrollees resulted in the construction of an unprecedented number of administrative facilities and a distinctive body of architecture in what became known as the Forest Service Rustic style. In some cases, existing facilities were maintained and expanded. In others, such as Redfeather Ranger Station, new complexes were built with close attention paid to appropriate station layout and appearance and quality building construction.

In Colorado, based on data presented in Hartley and Schneck 1996 and other sources, five extant ranger stations are architecturally comparable to Redfeather. Each complex was designed by Forest Service personnel in the Rustic style and built with log construction by CCC enrollees in one campaign. Regional Engineer James L. Brownlee designed the earliest example, Pyramid Guard Station, incorporating both Bungalow and Rustic stylistic details. Brownlee is also credited with designing the Stub Creek Ranger Station, built two years later. The four later ranger stations – Redfeather, Basalt, Mesa Lakes and Lake George – post-date the establishment of the Rocky Mountain Region's Architectural Division; each exhibits the Forest Service's mature interpretation of the Rustic style. Of the four, Redfeather Ranger Station is the largest and appears to be the least-altered example in Colorado.

Inventory # / Designation	Property / Location / Construction Dates	Description	Designer	Exterior alterations since construction
5LR1864, National Register eligible, criteria A and C	Redfeather Ranger Station Roosevelt National Forest 1937-1941	4 buildings: 2 dwellings, office, garage.	Forest Service Architects Arthur G. Longfellow and W.E. Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • office garage converted to office space 1951 • garage bay doors replaced before 1967 • roof shingles replaced on all buildings

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Inventory # / Designation	Property / Location / Construction Dates	Description	Designer	Exterior alterations since construction
5EA892, National Register eligible, criteria A and C	Basalt Ranger Station White River National Forest 1936-1941	3 buildings: dwelling, office, garage	Forest Service Architect W. Earle Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> office garage converted to bunkhouse post 1960 garage bay doors replaced c.1980s dwelling and office windows replaced 1988 roof shingles replaced on all buildings 1988
5ME7369, National Register eligible, criteria A and C	Mesa Lakes Ranger Station Grand Mesa National Forest 1940-1941	3 buildings: dwelling, office garage	unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> roof shingles replaced, all buildings c.1947 bunkhouse added to complex garage spaces in office converted to living space c.1970
5RB2882, National Register listed, criteria A and C, NRIS.07001354	Pyramid Guard Station Routt National Forest 1934-1936	5 buildings: dwelling, office, barn, blacksmith shop, woodshed	Forest Service Regional Engineer James L. Brownlee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dwelling porch rebuilt after collapse c.1951 privy removed, date unknown
5LR1865, National Register eligible, criteria A and C	Stub Creek Ranger Station Roosevelt National Forest 1936-1939	2 buildings: dwelling, garage/barn.	Forest Service Regional Engineer James L. Brownlee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1948 dwelling addition portable office added to complex 1949 portable bunkhouse added 1951-1952. garage roof shingles replaced 2010
5PA532, National Register eligible, criteria A and C	Lake George Ranger Station, Pike National Forest c.1935-38	3 buildings: dwelling, office, truck garage	unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> truck garage bay doors replaced c.1965 office garage space in converted to office space c.1970 office addition c.2015

Site planning and design at Redfeather Ranger Station adheres to guidance prepared for the Forest Service by Consulting Landscape Architect A.D. Taylor in the 1930s. Signage and perimeter fencing along Dowdy Lake Road identify the ranger station. The station access road directs visitors to the Office, identified with a flagpole and informational signage. The Ranger Dwelling is in close proximity to the Office, connected by a well-constructed stone pathway. The Ranger Dwelling and Office – the station’s two most prominent buildings – face southwest to views of the Mummy Range. The siting of parking behind each building preserves their scenic qualities as well. The Garage and other work areas are located toward the rear of the station, largely screened by tree growth.

The four buildings in the Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District demonstrate some of the most important trends and transitions in Forest Service architecture during the first half of the 20th century. Each floor plan was based on standardized designs created by the Rocky Mountain Region’s architectural and engineering divisions, a practice initiated in the 1920s to improve the appearance and efficiency of ranger stations and used throughout the region and country. The three log buildings showcase the Forest Service’s mature interpretation of the Rustic style, which emphasized natural settings and the use of local materials and traditional, labor-intensive construction techniques. The two dwellings and Office share stylistic features common to all Forest Service Rustic designs, such as stone-veneered foundations and porches, prominent stone chimneys and fireplaces, log walls and trim, small paned windows, and deeply overhung gable roofs. In particular, the exaggerated scale and rugged details of the Ranger Dwelling, designed by architect Arthur G. Longfellow,

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make it "a unique and masterful example of Forest Service Rustic architecture" (Hartley and Schneck 1993b).

Additionally, the buildings and stone features throughout the district showcase the skill and contributions of the CCC program in executing Rustic style designs for the Forest Service during this era. Working with agency personnel and local experienced craftsmen, CCC enrollees from Camp F-50-C completed all phases and aspects of construction, from cutting and preparing logs and excavating basements to erecting all four buildings, finishing their interiors, installing septic and water systems, and completing site work and landscaping.¹⁸ Camp F-50-C enrollees worked at the new station from 1936 to 1942, and at least one, Mirl Boner, returned in the 1950s as a Forest Service carpenter to make repairs to the exterior of the Ranger Dwelling.¹⁹

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)²⁰

Chronological History of Redfeather Ranger Station

For almost 13,000 years, north central Colorado was home to the Ute and Arapaho Native American Tribes. Other tribes also frequented the region, including the Cheyenne, Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, Pawnee, Lakota, and Shoshone (U.S.D.A., Forest Service n.d.). In the 18th century, Spanish traders and explorers passed through the region, followed by beaver trappers, surveyors, and pioneers traveling west on routes such as the Oregon and California trails. Throughout the 19th century, the added pressures of mining and ranching interests and railroad construction resulted in a dramatic decrease in the numbers of Native Americans living in the area. In the 1880s, following a series of treaties, the United States government forcibly relocated the remaining Native Americans to surrounding states and to reservations (Mehls 1984a). By the time the Forest Service built a new ranger station in Red Feather Lakes in the 1930s, the area was a growing community of ranchers, tie cutters, miners and lumbermen, frequented by visitors and vacation homeowners attracted by its rugged scenery and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The first permanent white settlers in Red Feather Lakes were members of the John Hardin family in the 1870s. Others followed, drawn by the area's timber, trapping, mining and ranching opportunities. As development increased in the arid climate, ditching and irrigation efforts created a series of artificial lakes fed by springs, North and South Lone Pine Creeks, and other tributaries of the Cache la Poudre River. In 1923, recognizing the area's investment and recreation potential, several businesspeople from nearby Fort Collins, working with local leaders, established the Red Feather Mountain Lakes Association with the goal of selling thousands of vacation home lots and building various resort amenities on 4320 acres.²¹ Local tradition records that the name "Red Feather" was based on an interpretation of the name of a popular Native American singer then on tour in Colorado.²² Many of the lakes were also renamed, based on Native American themes. Given the economic challenges of the 1920s and 1930s, the association's expansive plans were not fully realized, although some vacation homes, a hotel and a golf course were built. Various property transfers and negotiations regarding water rights also impacted development, although slow growth continued throughout the 20th century. Today Red Feather Lakes is an unincorporated town with a year-round population of about 591 people. Subdivision patterns, road networks, the golf course and a small number of early cottages remain to document the association's investment plans from the 1920s.

As was the case elsewhere in the Rocky Mountain Region, the negative effect of decades of overgrazing and unchecked timber cutting on watershed protection in arid north central Colorado were evident by the late 19th century. To protect both water and timber resources, conservation began in the early 1890s with the federal designation of five Forest Reserves in Colorado. These early conservation efforts differed from earlier federal policy, which until then had focused on transferring public lands to private individuals and entities for development. These efforts often met public and political opposition (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

¹⁸ The extent to which Forest Service personnel and contractors finished the Assistant Ranger Dwelling after Camp F-50-C closed on May 1, 1942 is not detailed in records from the time (Audretsch 2017:21).

¹⁹ Mr. Boner's first name is spelled both Merle and Mirl in various source materials.

²⁰ Much of the information presented in the contextual sections builds on research in the Buckhorn Ranger Station Historic District National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Buckhorn Ranger Station, also on the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado, was listed to the National Register on August 12, 2022.

²¹ Red Feather Historical Society, "Red Feather Lakes History."

²² Red Feather Historical Society, "Red Feather Lakes History." Since the 1920s, various place names have used both the term "Red Feather" and "Redfeather."

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Initiatives to better manage water and timber resources and control wildfires gained momentum after passage of the Organic Act of 1897 and the transition of the Forest Service into an organized and focused federal agency under the leadership of Gifford Pinchot. By 1905, six forest reserves had been established in Colorado. Two years later, when the designation of National Forest replaced that of Reserve, 16 forests were delineated in the state. Through a series of acreage and boundary adjustments the federal forest lands surrounding the Red Feather Lakes area were first known as the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve, then Medicine Bow National Forest, and by 1910 the Colorado National Forest (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The forest was renamed the Roosevelt National Forest in 1932 in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt and his influences on natural resource conservation.

The administrative headquarters of the Colorado National Forest was located in the populated community of Fort Collins, and for a short period of time in Estes Park (Hartley and Schneck 1996). Throughout the country, National Forests were further organized into ranger districts, with a ranger and at times other staff assigned to each. Some rangers worked seasonally; others year round. Their typical responsibilities included patrolling the land, controlling unregulated logging, enforcing grazing regulations, monitoring for fires, and preventing development from encroaching on the Forest. Their work was not always appreciated and was sometimes dangerous. Ranger stations provided shelter in these remote areas for the ranger, his horse and his equipment.

From 1905 to the 1930s, the Red Feather Lakes area was part of the Manhattan Ranger District.²³ The Manhattan Ranger Station, located several miles southwest of Red Feather station today, consisted of a log ranger dwelling and a building referred to as both a barn and an equipment shed. R.C. McConnell served as Manhattan District Ranger from 1909-1923. He is remembered as “a local man, practical and well-liked, and was accepted as part of the community, not as the representative of a distant federal government moving in to regiment the people” (Swanson 1971:20). By the 1930s, the remote station buildings had been in use for 25 years and the water supply was inconsistent. The resources offered by the New Deal and the Civilian Conservation Corps provided the Forest Service with the opportunity to significantly upgrade and modernize the Forest’s ranger stations.



Figure 12: A 1909 view of the Manhattan Ranger Station, predecessor to the Redfeather Ranger Station. Source: Swanson 1971:19.

²³ The district took its name from the short-lived community of Manhattan, where gold was discovered in 1886. Due to its remote location and the low-grade nature of the deposit, the community only lasted about 20 years (Western Mining History, n.d.).

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Throughout Colorado, CCC camps worked with the Forest Service to carry out conservation, forestation and reforestation activities, including the construction and maintenance of agency infrastructure. Between the start of the CCC program in 1933 and work commencing at Redfeather in 1936, enrollees built 27 dwellings, offices, lookouts, warehouses, barns and garages and repaired 121 other structures and buildings for the Forest Service (Alleger and Gleyre 1936:149). On the Roosevelt National Forest alone, CCC enrollees built new administrative facilities at the Buckhorn, Estes Park, Rollinsville and Stub Creek ranger stations, in addition to Redfeather (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

Forest Service officials considered several locations for the new station, and opinions varied as to whether the current site was the most appropriate. Concerns included the distance of the proposed buildings from the public's view on Dowdy Lake Road, the expense of leveling building sites given rocky conditions, and the challenge of separating septic systems and the well water supply given the topography.²⁴ Although not fully detailed in agency correspondence, the views of site from the Red Feather Club House were also considered. Advantages of the site – its protection from prevailing winds, southern exposures, and its view of the district – as well as the lack of another suitable site prevailed, and Assistant Regional Forester M.W. Thompson gave final approval in December 1936 (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946). The Forest Service cancelled a pasture permit for the location held by local rancher Ben F. Scott on December 12, 1936. Forest Service Landscape Foreman J. Morgan Smith published a station sketch plan dated December 15, 1936, based on field data collected by Forest Supervisor William R. Kreutzer, District Ranger Bruce Torgny, Assistant Regional Forester M. W. Thompson, and Engineer John A. Whiting.

Construction activities commenced immediately and were consistently documented in agency memoranda often between Forest Supervisor William Kreutzer, Project Superintendent Walter Shore, and regional administrators in Denver. The correspondence shows close oversight of the project, concern for the use of quality materials and workmanship, and the need for detailed bookkeeping and budgeting. In January 1937, CCC enrollees from Company 2805 at the Red Feather Lakes Camp F-50-C began cutting trees under the direction of Project Superintendent Walter Shore. In a December 19, 1936 memorandum, Ranger Torgny noted that 15,000 loads of dry logs had been removed from the area throughout the previous 20 years, creating the need to cut and season green logs for the station buildings. Hiring experienced locals to serve as carpenters, supervisors, plumbers and masons also slowed progress throughout the project (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

Despite these difficulties, excavations for an equipment shed foundation were underway in March 1937.²⁵ Initial plans called for building the equipment shed, a Garage, a Ranger Dwelling and an Office, with the latter two being log buildings. Designs were based on other recently completed Forest Service facilities and standard agency plans, with changes made in the field as needed to suit local conditions and preferences (U.S. Forest Service, 1936-1946). By July 1937, the Garage was complete, and footings were in place for the Office. Rocky conditions slowed progress on the full basement excavation for the Ranger Dwelling. CCC crews completed the Office in 1938, followed by the Ranger Dwelling in 1939. An inspection in August 1939 described the ranger station as "a very fine development with well graded yards and unusually good stone walks," and noted its ample water supply and satisfactory waste disposal systems (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

²⁴ In a memo dated May 26, 1936, Regional Forest Inspector C.B. Mack wrote that the proposed Redfeather location was undesirable, "since with our modern Ranger Station improvements, it is but good business to advertise them by placing them where the public can easily see them, and know that they are for Service improvements" (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

²⁵ Forest Service correspondence refers to the equipment shed as a portable building. A 1944 Redfeather plan shows an equipment shed located beyond the station's perimeter fence, northeast of the Garage. It is no longer extant.

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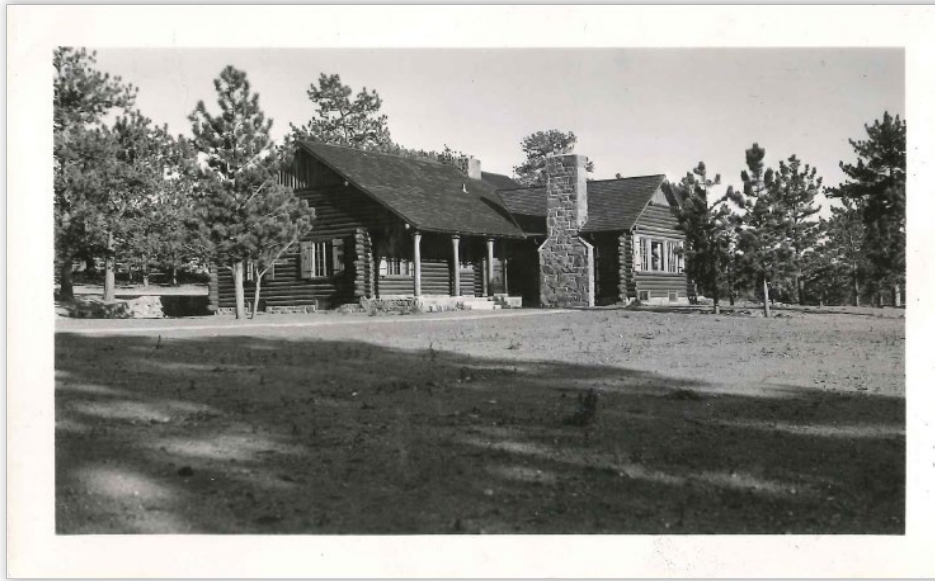


Figure 13: The Redfeather Ranger Dwelling shortly after its construction. Source: Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, on file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

A second phase of work was completed at the station prior to the end of the CCC program in 1942. CCC enrollees worked on the Assistant Ranger Dwelling in 1941 and 1942, although it was finished by Forest Service personnel and local contractors after the CCC program ended. In 1940, a building used as an equipment shed and barn from the Manhattan Ranger Station was moved to Redfeather and updated as to a barn, located in back of the Garage. A corral was added at the same time (Hartley and Schneck 1993b). A plan of the station drawn in 1944, with revisions up to 1954, shows several other small outbuildings on the site, including two small outbuildings behind the Ranger Dwelling and a powder house and cap cache east of the complex (R.F.B and Blackmer 1944).

Following the war, efforts at station improvements focused on supplying consistent electrical power for agency staff living and working there. In 1945, the Forest Service installed a 110 volt electrical plant at the station, powered by batteries charged by a wind tower (see figure 9). The new system replaced an outdated gas-powered standby plant. After two years of adjustments to the tower, batteries and wiring, the system was in use for several years. In 1952, the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, one of 23 rural electric associations formed in Colorado in response to the opportunities offered by the federal Rural Electrification Association, ran electric distribution lines to the Red Feather area, alleviating the need for wind power. Petitioners supporting the project included many long-time property owners and business leaders, as well as the Forest Service and the state Game and Fish Department (Swanson 1971:62-64).

The post-war years brought changes to the community of Red Feather Lakes as well. In 1938 the Tunnel Water Company had acquired the ditches, reservoirs, rights of way and assets of the struggling Laramie-Poudre Irrigation Company. The lakes in the Red Feather area were included in the acquisition, although their recreational purposes were not a priority for the new owners (Swanson 1971:46). Several years of negotiations between local leaders, the state Game and Fish Department and the Tunnel Water Company resulted in the creation of a new entity, the Red Feather Storage and Irrigation Company (RFSIC). In 1948, RFSIC purchased Letitia, Snake, West, Dowdy, Erie and Bellaire lakes along with the Elkhorn, North Pine and South Pine supply ditches, and immediately resold West, Dowdy and Bellaire lakes and the Elkhorn ditch to the Game and Fish Department, ensuring their management solely for recreational purposes.²⁶ The Forest Service provided camping facilities on Dowdy, West, and Bellaire lakes, adding to staff responsibilities at the ranger station (Swanson 1971:47).

Repairs to Ranger Dwelling in the 1950s illustrate one of the many long-felt benefits of the CCC program. Mirl Boner of Fort Collins was among the CCC enrollees at Camp F-50-C in the 1930s. He served as a foreman and worked on the construction of the Ranger Dwelling and the Office at Redfeather. After his time in the CCC, Boner worked for many years as a Forest Carpenter on the Roosevelt National Forest and was back at Redfeather leading a refinishing project at the

²⁶ The Game and Fish Department was one of the antecedents to today's Colorado Parks and Wildlife agency.

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Dwelling in 1954. Photographs in the Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook record the project and his work on the Garage at the Poudre District Office in Fort Collins (U.S. Forest Service various dates, Family Search n.d.). In black and white photographs of the Redfeather project, the logs appear stripped of a finish. Assisting Boner were Glenn Scott, then a Fire Guard who later rose in the ranks to Interregional Fire Crew Boss, and Elmer Benson, who later served as General District Assistant at the nearby Rollinsville Ranger Station.



Figure 14: Work underway on the Ranger Dwelling refinishing project in 1954. Scaffolding is on the southeast gable. Photograph by E.H. Mason, Forest Supervisor. Source: Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, on file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.



Figure 15: Forest Carpenter Mirl Boner (right) and Fire Guard Glenn Scott (left) refinishing the Ranger Dwelling in 1954. Note refinishing work underway on the log crowns to the left. Source:

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Roosevelt National Forest Scrapbook, on file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

In 2019, former Assistant Ranger Ray Mahaffey shared his remembrances of Redfeather Ranger Station at a program sponsored by the Red Feather Library and Red Feather Historical Society (Red Feather Historical Society 2019). He and his family moved to the station in the summer of 1963 and lived in the Assistant Ranger Dwelling. He described the remote nature of the station, particularly in winter, and the tightknit community of Red Feather Lakes. At that time, other onsite staff typically included the District Ranger, a Forester, a General District Assistant, and a part-time Secretary. In the summer, eight to 10 seasonal workers stayed in two temporary CCC bunkhouses (Red Feather Historical Society 2019, U.S. Forest Service 1961-2012). In 1966, a Forest Service plan to build a new 8 person dormitory at the station was designed but not implemented.

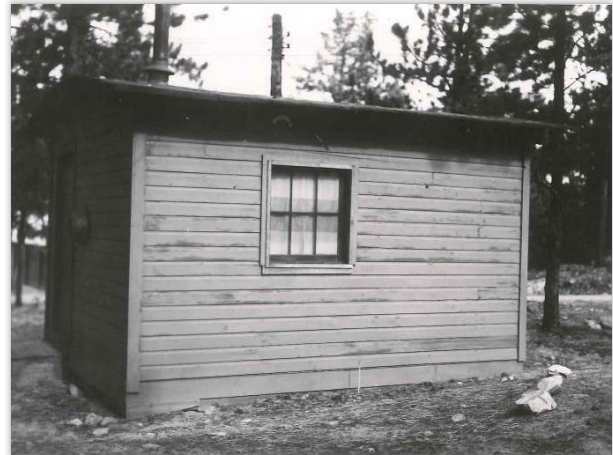
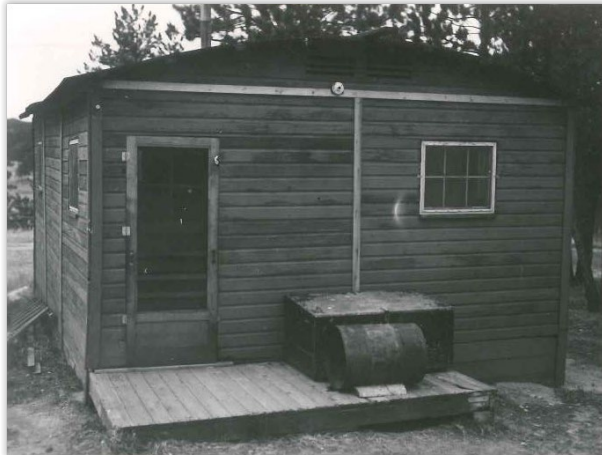


Figure 16: A 1961 photograph of the six person (left) and four person (right) CCC-era bunkhouses used until about 1967 as housing for seasonal crews working out of Redfeather Ranger Station. Both have since been removed. Source: U.S. Forest Service 1961-2012.

In the 1960s, crews operating out of the station worked on road and recreational facility maintenance, timber improvement, timber cruising and fire control. Forestry activities focused on timber cuts, 10-12 million board feet each year, supporting sawmills in Red Feather and Fort Collins. Christmas trees, bolts, poles and mine props were also harvested. Station staff responded to an average of eight to twelve fires a year, which were usually small, less than half an acre, and in the summer and fall. In 1965, the district ranger administered projects to redevelop campgrounds at the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre and on Bellaire, Creedmore, Dowdy and West lakes. Other station responsibilities included monitoring the weather, responding to calls for rescues and disturbances at campgrounds, and completing projects with the Soil Conservation Service, the Division of Wildlife and the new Land and Water Conservation Fund (Red Feather Historical Society 2019).²⁷

In January 1967, activities at Redfeather changed substantially, as they did at many ranger stations as the Forest Service adopted an approach of consolidating administrative staff in district offices in urban locations and using ranger stations as work centers for seasonal crews. Staff at Redfeather, led by new District Ranger Roan Anderson, moved to the Forest Service building at 148 Remington Street in Fort Collins.²⁸ With the move, seasonal crew members moved out of the cramped CCC barracks and stayed in the more spacious Ranger and Assistant Ranger Dwellings (Red Feather Historical Society 2019).

Writing in 1971, local historian Evadene Burris Swanson described the activities of the Forest Service in the district at the time:

The Red Feather District is known for its hunting and fishing. The official estimate for 1968 was 66,100 hunting and fishing visitor days. Popular campgrounds are maintained at several lakes: Dowdy, Bellaire, West, and Creedmore. Their capacity is frequently exceeded during the summer, and plans to enlarge

²⁷ Weather monitoring continues at the station today. See photograph 55 for an image of the current portable monitoring equipment.

²⁸ Built by CCC enrollees in 1936-37, the two story Art Deco style building was first known as the Poudre Garage. Offices were mainly on the second floor. The building, now renovated and expanded, is in commercial use.

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them are being considered. The Recreation budget, however, of the Red Feather Ranger District, has been drastically curtailed the last two years as a result of action of the County Health Department in closing the dumps in the Red Feather area. Since then the Forest Service, like private individuals, must contract with a private trash collecting service to haul the solid wastes to the Fort Collins-Loveland sanitary land fill, multiplying the cost to \$10,000 for the season, without any increase in budget.

Most of the Ranger District, a total of 417,000 acres, is included in grazing allotments to 68 ranchers, who graze 6300 cattle and horses for approximately three summer months on the forest. A limited amount of timber is cut by local loggers. In 1968, this was 11,400,000 board feet of sawlogs and poles, sold on the stump to highest bidders, in addition to which about 100,000 board feet of firewood permits are issued to local people free of charge. The National Forest was originally established primarily as a protection forest for its water yield, and two permanent "snow courses" are maintained on which snow surveys are conducted as a basis for helping predict spring runoff.

The District approves over 100 special use permits each year, which include many interesting uses such as a cemetery, wells, and the filming of a TV program for "Wild Kingdom" mentioned earlier. Mineral claims on the District number 1550, but none is very active. (Swenson 1971: 86-87).

Swenson also described dry years and forest fires as taking precedence over all other Forest Service conservation work, "using all available manpower and funding" (Swenson 1971:87). Big fires had occurred on George Creek in 1952 and on the Laramie River in 1962. 1971 was a dry year; in June and July 13 fires broke out in the district. The largest, near Bull Mountain, burned more than 3100 acres (Swenson 1971:87). Bernice George was a longtime and popular lookout at the CCC-built Deadman Lookout, managed by the ranger station and located about ten miles to the northwest. George was renowned for her ability to spot fires and smoke and served the Forest Service from World War II through the 1960s (Red Feather Historical Society 2019).²⁹

Infrastructure changes at the Redfeather Ranger Station since the 1970s have focused on the threat of forest fires in the area. In 2002, the Forest Service constructed a 10-person crew quarters and a storage building for a wildland fire fighting engine north of the historic station, as well as a helibase south of the historic district on the service road formerly leading to the powder and cap caches. The helibase, near the shore of West Lake, consists of a building with office space and a pilot ready room, a small equipment building, and a 20'x20' concrete landing pad.

The Forest Service continues to operate the Red Feather Ranger Station as housing for seasonal crews and as a base for fire prevention and fighting operations. The Office serves as a visitors center, staffed by volunteer hosts. The station is administratively part of the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, which encompasses 1.5 million acres in the Rocky Mountain Region (also referred to as Region 2). Given further administrative consolidation of Forest ranger districts, since 1994 the property has been under the jurisdiction of the 650,000-acre Canyon Lakes District, headquartered in Fort Collins. Current Forest Service plans propose enrolling the two historic log dwellings into the agency's Recreation Fee Program as cabin rentals. Goals of the program include improving the experience of visitors to National Forests and Grasslands and generating sufficient revenue to maintain and repair Forest assets, including historic properties such as Redfeather Ranger Station.

USDA Forest Service – Politics and Government, Conservation

The Forest Service, a federal agency within the Department of Agriculture, manages 193 million acres of National Forests and National Grasslands, provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies, and is the largest forestry research organization in the world. Across the country, the public lands administered by the Forest Service are organized into nine regions; each region encompasses a number of National Forests and Grasslands. These in turn are organized into ranger districts, which are responsible for on-the-ground activities such as visitor information, trail construction and maintenance, campground operations, and habitat management. The public's first point of contact with the Forest Service is most commonly a staff person working at a ranger district.

The current designation of National Forest had its origins in 1891 with the creation of Forest Reserves (Williams 2005:15). Recognizing the negative impacts of increasing development on forestry resources – at that time focused mainly on timber and water -- the federal government established reserves across the country. The creation of Forest Reserves put into

²⁹ CCC Camp F-50-C built the first tower on the site, of wood, in 1937-38. It was dismantled in 1962 after a metal tower was built nearby. The metal tower is listed on the National Historic Lookout Register; it is the last of eight historic towers in the Front Range of northern Colorado and southern Wyoming (U.S.D.A. Forest Service n.d.).

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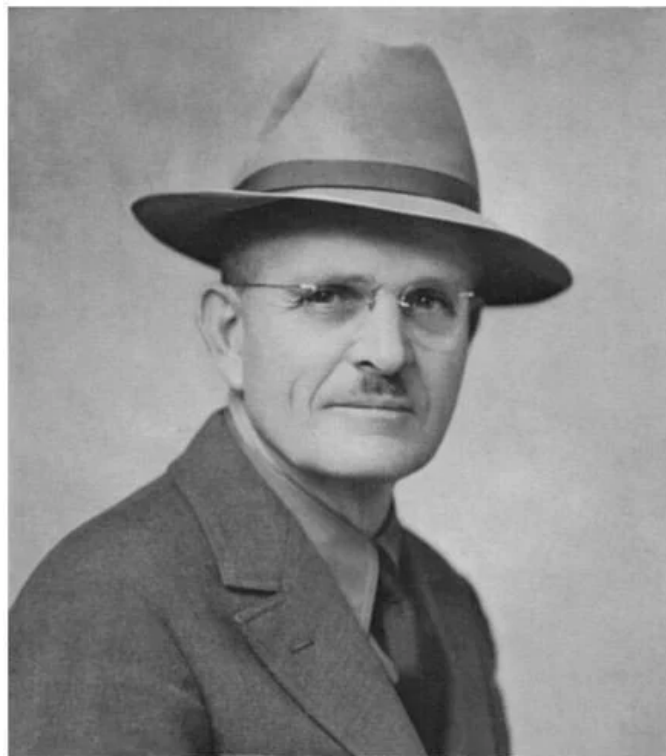
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place a nation-wide administrative structure and management protocol for protecting the forest for the benefit of the public and private interests such as the mining industry and railroad companies.³⁰ In many cases, it reversed previous federal policies and legislation such as the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Timber Culture Act of 1873, which opened land to homesteading and other unrestricted uses. The reserves policy sometimes proved unpopular, especially in western states (Williams 2005:16).

The federal government's efforts to protect forestry resources gained momentum after passage of the Organic Act of 1897, which clarified the statutory purposes of the Forest Reserves and created a Division of Forestry led by Gifford Pinchot within the Department of the Interior. The Forest Transfer Act followed in 1905, establishing what is known today as the Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture and providing a stronger statutory purpose for protecting and caring for the nation's Forest Reserves. In 1907, in the booklet titled *The Use of National Forests*, Gifford Pinchot described the administrative organization of the National Forests:

The Supervisor has direct charge of all the business. His office is located at some town convenient to the users. The Rangers are his field force. They live at central points throughout the Forests and carry out the business on the ground (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

The long Forest Service career of William Richard Kreutzer illustrates the development and organization of the Forest Service in the early 20th century. Kreutzer was appointed the first Forest Ranger in the state of Colorado in 1898, shortly after passage of the Organic Act of 1897. He worked on the Pike, Grand Mesa and Gunnison forests and is remembered as the quintessential ranger: capable, intelligent, brave and friendly, with a deep devotion to managing the Forest for future generations (Shoemaker 1958). From 1921 to 1939 he served as Supervisor of the Roosevelt National Forest. Among other accomplishments, he improved the Forest's fire-fighting capacities and closely oversaw efforts to end insect infestations and to expand the agency's administrative and recreational infrastructure with the resources of the CCC program. As Forest Supervisor, Kreutzer picked the site for the new Redfeather Ranger Station and was involved with the daily details of its construction (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).



³⁰ In the Redfeather Ranger District and other northern sections of the Colorado National Forest, mining and railroad companies particularly valued the extensive lodgepole pine stands. Their tall, straight, small-diameter trunks were harvested for use as railroad ties and mine shaft props.

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Figure 17: William R. Kreutzer, the first Forest Ranger appointed in Colorado and Supervisor of the Roosevelt National Forest from 1921-1939. Source: On file at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

A brochure published by the Department of Agriculture in 1928 summarized and promoted the work of the Forest Service in the National Forests of Colorado, categorized as fire protection, forest management, research, reforestation, range planning and management, game protection, and managing an increasing number of visitors (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1928). At that time, the Colorado (now Roosevelt) National Forest was one of 17 in the state, 828,744 acres in size, extending about 84 miles along the Front Range on the eastern slope of the Continental Divide.³¹ The headwaters of several rivers and creeks irrigating large sugar beet farms originated on the Forest. The brochure also highlighted the Forest's good roads, spectacular scenery, and highly developed lookout system, particularly important given the area's high recreational use and watershed protection value for nearby towns and industries. In 1928, 209 local ranchers grazed 17,000 cattle and 13,500 sheep on the Colorado National Forest, creating a high demand for summer pasturage.

The 1928 brochure provides a snapshot of the National Forests in Colorado prior to the New Deal programs that provided the resources needed to rapidly expand the mission and infrastructure of Forest Service. More than 57,000 enrollees in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) worked on the National Forests of Colorado in the 1930s, completing conservation projects valued at more than \$63 million (Merrill 1981). These efforts included fire protection and prevention, insect and tree disease control, planting trees grown in nurseries, harvesting cones and hardwood seeds for use in nurseries, forest stand thinning and mapping, seeding, eradicating poisonous plants and controlling the rodent population on grasslands, erosion and flood control.

The work of the CCC program also greatly expanded the physical infrastructure of the Forest Service. Guided by Forest Service and Army personnel and local experienced contractors, CCC enrollees constructed ranger stations and other administrative facilities such as lookouts, roads, bridges, dams, utilities, and more. In response to the growing numbers of visitors on the Forests, the CCC also built camp and picnic grounds, recreational trails and ponds, and improved landscaping, signage and water quality. These facilities enlarged the Forest Service's physical presence in the Forest and allowed agency personnel to manage resources and respond to threats more efficiently.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the role of the National Forests in supplying the nation's timber production needs was a point of discussion and, at times, controversy. Demand for timber increased rapidly during World War II and in the building boom that followed. The percentage of wood cut on the National Forests increased from approximately 2% before World War II to about one-third after the war (Steen 2004). During this era, the Forest Service worked to balance the need for increased timber production with its conservation mission; at the same time, the continuing popularity of using National Forests for recreational purposes at times increased pressures on natural resource protection.

In 1952, the Forest Service initiated an inventory of the nation's forests and reported that the utility and health of the forests would need to be enhanced in order to keep up with demands. Reforestation and enhanced fire, insect and disease programs were undertaken. These efforts culminated in passage of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act in 1960 (Williams 2005). Like the Organic Act of 1897, the legislation further clarified the agency's administrative responsibilities: timber, wildlife, range, water and recreation were all declared legitimate uses of the National Forests. For the first time in federal law, recreation was prioritized, along with the stewardship of natural resources, as part of the Forest Service's mission.

In the 1950s and 1960s, agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service established multi-year planning and funding programs to implement long term, system-wide construction and improvement programs (Carr et al. 2015). The Forest Service initiated its own large-scale planning and funding program with Operation Outdoors, initially covering the years from 1957 to 1962. With a focus on recreational resources and properties, Operation Outdoors repaired or replaced many of the facilities constructed in the 1930s, the last period of widespread infrastructure improvements on the National Forests. \$85 million of investment in maintenance, rehabilitation and new construction was planned; a second phase, covering five additional years, finished planned but incomplete or unconstructed projects. Post-World War II prosperity and construction of the Interstate Highway System further enhanced access to public lands, and both the Forest Service and the National Park Service opened a new type of facility, the visitors center, in response to an ever-increasing number of visitors (Carr et al. 2015).

³¹ The Colorado National Forest was renamed the Roosevelt National Forest in 1932, recognizing President Theodore Roosevelt's contributions to conservation.

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Figure 18: Redfeather Office in use as a visitors center, c.1980s. Source: On file at U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Coupled with the public's interest in outdoor recreation was its growing concern for caring for and protecting the environment. Federal legislation in the 1960s and 1970s responded to this new environmentalism and again changed the way National Forests were managed. These new laws included the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Trail System Act, the Water Pollution Control Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) (Williams 2005, Steen 2004). The goals of the legislation were largely aligned with the Forest Service's long-held mission of protecting the forest for the public's benefit. Although implementation and increased public participation in planning added to the agency's administrative responsibilities, it also alleviated many of the public's concerns about clear cutting and timber management, ecological safeguards, and encroaching development on wilderness areas (Williams 2005).

Implementation of NFMA in the 1980s and 1990s led to intensive long-range planning efforts on each of the National Forests; the effort required a more specialized work force, including public information officers, economists, archeologists, sociologists, geologists and ecologists (Williams 2005:131). The public remained actively engaged in potentially controversial issues such as designated wilderness areas, old-growth forests, and threatened or endangered wildlife, fish and plant species. Volunteer and youth employment programs provided an additional forum for the public to participate in Forest stewardship. Devastating fires in the late 1980s highlighted the increasingly dangerous confluence of wildland fires, growing communities, and public resources. By the turn of the 21st century, the Forest Service's administrative goals emphasized the long-term sustainability of all Forest ecosystems, national fire response planning, and collaborative partnerships with the public, the private sector and non-profit organizations (Williams 2005).

Today, Redfeather Ranger Station is part of the Canyon Lakes Ranger District, one of five ranger districts in the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland in the Rocky Mountain Region. Canyon Lakes is known for its year-round recreational opportunities, including four wilderness areas, three national recreational trails, several historic districts and the Cache La Poudre River, Colorado's only designated Wild and Scenic River. The Rocky Mountain Region covers more than 40 million acres on 17 National Forests and seven National Grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. It is also home to Rocky Mountains, the Continental Divide, and the headwaters of seven major river systems.

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The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Forest Service

In the years following the Stock Market Crash of 1929, nearly 25 percent of the workforce in the United States -- approximately 13 million people -- lost their jobs. Farmers in the Midwest were also struggling as ten years of drought and dust storms caused widespread crop failure. Families lost their farms and migrated to other parts of the country in search of livable conditions. The federal government's response to what became known as the Great Depression intensified with the presidential administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933. Within the first 100 days, Roosevelt put in motion the New Deal, a series of domestic programs aimed at restoring economic and social prosperity.

One of these programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), was formed by the Federal Unemployment Relief Act and Executive Order 6101. From 1933 until 1942, CCC enrollees were heavily involved in the conservation mission of the Forest Service and in the construction of the new Redfeather Ranger Station, making the property an important illustration of the significant contributions of the CCC on the National Forests in Colorado and throughout the country.

Until the Depression, the Forest Service had operated with limited governmental support and financial resources to oversee its extensive acreage and the natural resources on it. With the creation of the CCC, the Forest Service found itself on the verge of unprecedented expansion (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The National Forests presented an ideal vehicle for implementing New Deal goals. Roosevelt's administration quickly drafted legislation to employ 250,000 men working for the common good. Within the first two years the number of men enrolled in the program doubled from the initial figure. More than three million men had signed on by 1942. More than 57,000 enrollees would work on the National Forests of Colorado, completing conservation projects valued at more than \$63 million (Merrill 1981). Across the country, the Forest Service administered about half of the total output of the CCC in conservation and building projects (Steen 2004).

Federal plans called for having 1,300 CCC camps across the country operational by July 1933. Men between the ages of 18 and 25 could enroll for a minimum of six months. Enrollments could be extended in six-month terms to two years. CCC enrollees -- also known as Roosevelt's Tree Army -- typically earned \$30 a month; as required, most of an enrollee's wages was sent directly to their families back home. In Colorado, rosters were most-commonly filled with local men, although enrollees also came from Texas, California, Nebraska, Oklahoma and other states (Alleger and Gleyre 1936).

Enrollees were organized by company, led by Army personnel and professionals experienced in the technical trades needed to teach enrollees new skills and complete assigned projects. Companies consisted of roughly 200 men, who were stationed at camps -- often that they had built themselves -- administered by various federal agencies. Companies changed camp locations depending on the skill sets needed for the scale and complexity of various projects. Initially, camps were rudimentary; however, the value of the CCC program was quickly apparent and the government provided more resources. A camp could grow to include barracks and/or tents, a mess hall, a canteen, administrative and medical offices, various shops, supply buildings, recreational spaces, and more.

The opportunities afforded by the CCC transformed the lives of many enrollees. Many came from rural communities with limited educational opportunities and learned how to read and write and attended classes and weekly lectures, in addition to learning trades and skills. Thomas Ruch, a foreman at Camp F-17-W in Chimney Park, Wyoming, wrote in 1935:

The CCC takes a pretty raw product from the streets and pool halls where some would turn out to be barflies, gamblers, and petty criminals, and makes a majority of them, well-trained workmen fitted for the industrial life of a nation. Many of these men go out capable of handling a gang of workmen efficiently on any job requiring manual labor. Some learn the use of carpenter tools; others welding ... almost any kind of skilled work that may come up in general public life (Roth 2004).

The link between forestry management and job creation for the unemployed during the Great Depression had been under discussion in Washington, DC, prior to the creation of the CCC. In 1932, Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York sponsored a resolution that called for an investigation into how the National Forests could be utilized to a greater extent to provide economic and social benefits (Roth 2004). The Forest Service was tasked with completing the investigation and in 1933 published a two-volume report -- called the Copeland Report -- which called for increasing the acreage of publicly-owned forests and for more intensive management of all forest lands (Steen 2004). The report provided a blueprint for the much of the work of the CCC.

Shortly after Roosevelt authorized the CCC, the Forest Service organized projects, proposed and developed crews, and acquired and moved camp supplies and tools to various work locations. In states like Colorado, CCC companies

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constructed hundreds of miles of Forest Service roads, ranger stations and other administrative buildings, campgrounds, and recreation sites, and completed projects such as forest thinning, forest fire intervention and erosion control. By September 1933, the Forest Service administered 23 of the 31 CCC camps in Colorado (Audretsch 2017:6). By 1942, the last year of CCC operations, the number of camps had grown to 42, with the largest number of camps under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service (Roth 2004). The work accomplished by CCC enrollees working on Forest Service projects was extraordinary. Writing about the CCC's contributions in Colorado, Audretsch notes that at the program's end, "more conservation and recreation work had been accomplished by one organization than in any other period in American environmental history" (Audretsch 2017:6).

Although the Forest Service is credited with administering about half of the CCC activities nationwide, other government agencies also operated CCC camps and projects, sometimes partnering on large or complex projects. In Colorado, these agencies included the National Park Service, Colorado State Parks, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Division of Grazing and the Colorado National Monument (Alleger and Gleyre 1936). Conservation work included grassland management and restoration, preservation of natural wildlife habitats, stream and freshwater improvements, fish restocking, and dam construction (Alleger and Gleyre 1936). Many CCC camps also responded to natural disasters and emergencies such as flooding, hurricanes, fires and blizzards.

Six companies of CCC enrollees worked on the 800,000+ acre Roosevelt National Forest: Peaceful Valley, F-1-C, 1933-1938; Eggers, F-2-C, 1933; Red Feather Lakes, F-50-C, 1935-1942; Poudre Canyon, F-61-C, 1937-1940; Boulder, F-62-C, 1937, and Chambers Lake, F-66-C, 1940-1941 (Audretsch 2017). Their accomplishments across the Roosevelt National Forest are recorded in work plans, inspection reports, agency memoranda, newspapers and other archival materials. Of the six camps, the Red Feather Lakes camp operated the longest.



Figure 19: Photograph of CCC Company 2805 at Red Feather Lakes Camp F-50-C, circa 1938-39. Source: On file at U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Forest Supervisor William R. Kreutzer and Ranger Bruce Torgny chose the site of the Red Feather Lakes CCC Camp, about 1-1/2 miles west of the community of Red Feather Lakes (Swanson 1971). Construction of the camp – mainly temporary buildings – began in April 1935 and the first enrollees arrived in July 1935.³² In addition to personnel from the Forest Service and the Army, local experienced men were brought on as camp staff; Lou Young served as foreman and Mirl Boner as a supervisor (Swanson 1971). The accomplishments of the camp provided the rural community with other benefits as well, such as improved roads, phone service and recreational amenities.

Led by Project Superintendent Walter A. Shore, a typical crew of 12 to 17 CCC enrollees worked on the Redfeather Ranger Station between 1937 and 1942. Construction began in 1937 with foundation excavations and the harvesting of suitable building logs. By the start of 1938, the Garage and the exterior of the Office were largely complete; work on wells,

³² Today the site of the F-50-C camp is privately owned. In 2015, the Red Feather Historical Society sponsored a tour of the former camp. Although many of the buildings were designed to be temporary, at that time the library/mess hall and a water tower were extant (Red Feather Historical Society n.d.).

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sewer systems, the approach road, a cattle guard, and fencing was also underway.³³ By the year's end, three Forest Service carpenters were also working at the new ranger station, focusing on the interior of the Ranger Dwelling. In April 1939, the station was judged complete, except for landscaping, and in December 1939 the public was invited to inspect the new facility (Audretsch 2017).

Construction quickly resumed at the property, however. The second phase of CCC efforts began in 1940 and included moving a building from the former Manhattan Ranger Station to Redfeather and updating it for use as a barn and the start of construction of an Assistant Ranger Dwelling. Completion of the dwelling was interrupted by the entry of the United States government into World War II in December 1941.³⁴ Amid dwindling enrollments, the Red Feather Camp officially closed on May 1, 1942. Despite arguments by the Forest Service to continue at least some CCC operations for fire protection, Congress voted to end the program in June 1942 and turned its full attention to the war.

In total, the Red Feather Lakes CCC camp is credited with improving 31 campgrounds; building the Deadman's Hill, White Pine Mountain and Mount Thorodin fire lookouts; building the Redfeather, Stub Creek, Buckhorn and Rollinsville ranger stations; constructing the Pingree Park, Manhattan and Cherokee Park roads and more than 100 miles of telephone lines, and planting more than a million trees.³⁵ Camp enrollees also built miles of fences, fought fires, operated game checking stations, improved fisheries, and completed timber surveys, stream survey work and game surveys (Audretsch 2017:21).

Architecture

The earliest construction practices of the Forest Service for ranger or guard stations were often inspired by local architectural trends; construction decisions also took advantage of the skills and experience of field staff or existing buildings that could be used to house staff and office space. In the early 20th century – prior to the widespread use of automobiles and trucks – rangers in rural locations were expected to either construct their own living and work quarters or to reuse existing buildings to serve as ranger stations. Throughout the region, the quality and comfort of ranger station construction varied depending on local needs, conditions and preferences. Tents and one-room log cabins were not uncommon. Rangers were expected to know how to handle an axe and build a cabin; a good ranger could fell and prepare enough trees for a small cabin in three days (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

In Colorado, this most often meant adopting the pioneer tradition of log buildings and the use of readily available local materials such as wood and stone. Log building traditions were associated with the several European immigrant groups settling the eastern United States beginning in the 1600s. Few examples of these early log buildings remain; they were often replaced by larger wood-frame buildings after sawmills were established and sawn lumber became widely available. Today, log cabin construction is more commonly associated with the western United States and in particular portions of the Rocky Mountains. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, both white settlers and Forest Service rangers in Colorado built homes with local stone and logs, at times adapting earlier log cabin traditions to meet local conditions.³⁶ The c.1905 log cabin and barn at the former Manhattan Ranger Station – the predecessor to the current Redfeather Ranger Station – followed this pattern (see figure 12), as did the Cayton Ranger Station (NRIS.05000335) on the White River National Forest and the Hog Park Guard Station (NRIS.03000960) on the Routt National Forest.³⁷ Although often merged in popular culture, these pioneer cabins differed in their scale, workmanship and permanence from the Rustic style log buildings designed by architects working for agencies such as the National Park Service and the Forest Service in the 1930s and 1940s.

In the opening years of the 20th century, the Forest Service's administrative responsibilities grew rapidly as more acreage was brought under its jurisdiction and its mission expanded beyond protecting public land to more actively managing the

³³ The well proved particularly problematic. According to a Forest Service inspection in July 1938, "six shots of dynamite were being tried to increase the water in it" (Audretsch 2017:17).

³⁴ Forest Service staff completed the dwelling in 1942.

³⁵ In a 1993 historic building survey, the Stub Creek dwelling and garage built by Camp F-50-C were extant, as were the CCC built assistant ranger dwelling, horse barn and garage at Buckhorn between 1933-40. At Rollinsville, only a garage and storage building dating to 1933-37 remained. (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

³⁶ One common adaptation, now known as the Rocky Mountain Cabin, placed the main entry on the cabin's gable end and extended the roofline between 50 and 100 percent of the length of the main block. When weather conditions accommodated, the large front porch of a Rocky Mountain cabin served as additional living space (Wilson 1984:29).

³⁷ Both Cayton Ranger Station and Hog Park Guard Station are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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land's natural resources. To address building needs, a Washington, DC, Division of Engineering was created in 1908, the same year that Forest administration was decentralized into eight districts – now known as regions – each with its own engineering division (Steen 2004).

With the advent of in-house design professionals, several trends worked together to improve the comfort, efficiency and appearance of ranger stations throughout the Forest Service. One was the recognition that an increasing number of rangers were college-educated foresters who potentially lacked hands-on construction skills. A growing number also required appropriate accommodations for their families. James L. Brownlee, a longtime Region 2 District Engineer, believed that incoming college-educated rangers deserved better accommodations than the Forest Service had to date provided (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

The Forest Service's new design personnel analyzed existing ranger stations throughout the region and concluded that amid growing administrative requirements, it was expensive to construct separate buildings for each new function. Additionally, the proliferation of buildings was thought to give a cluttered appearance to stations (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The Forest Service also recognized that ranger stations were often the public's first place of contact with the agency and should reflect its mission. In Colorado and elsewhere, regional and Forest engineers worked to establish a more formal architectural vocabulary based primarily upon the Bungalow and Rustic styles, both popular at the time. They also introduced two current architectural trends to the Forest Service that would influence the agency's architectural production for several decades: standardized building plans and combination building designs.

Throughout the 1910s and 1920s, Forest Service engineers experimented with a series of standardized building plans for improved ranger living quarters and other administrative buildings. Improvements were sometimes hampered by cost limitations imposed by Congress; a \$600 limit per structure in 1906 had only increased to \$1200 by the late 1920s and to \$2500 by 1932 (Hartley and Schneck 1996). Throughout the construction industry, standardizing design, building components and materials was seen as a new strategy to produce a higher quality building while reducing costs. In 1929 Region 2 introduced a series of standard designs for ranger housing, the Forest Service's first documented use of standardization on a regional level (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

During this time, Region 2 designers were also developing a plan series for station buildings that combined several administrative functions, with the goals of increasing efficiency and improving station appearance, at a construction cost of less than \$1000 (Hartley and Schneck 1996). In 1928, guidance from Forest Service DC headquarters called for designated office buildings, separate from office space in a ranger dwelling or a guard station (Grosvenor 1999). The first designs for purpose-built Forest Service administrative buildings appeared three years later and were typically called Combination Offices.

The administrative series combined interior spaces for an office, wood and tool storage space, a garage, and/or a bedroom. Bedrooms were used by visiting personnel in remote locations or by rangers if other living arrangements were not available. The growing use of vehicles, rather than horses, created the need for garage space and rapidly changed the way rangers completed their duties. Vehicles expedited fieldwork and helped to stimulate road construction throughout the Forest, leading eventually to the consolidation of districts and the replacement of year-round rural ranger stations with seasonal or temporary ones. With a vehicle and good roads, families who lived on ranger stations had easier access to services in nearby communities, or a ranger might choose to live in town.

The administrative series and combination building concepts proved popular throughout the Forest Service. The functional and efficient plans were re-engineered, expanded and constructed into the 1940s. As with all standardized plans and guidance from regional and national headquarters, local variables such as funding and the availability of materials and labor could necessitate design changes during construction. At Redfeather, the Combination Office was built according to standard plan B85, a design named "Redfeather" and also utilized at Muddy Guard Station on Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming (Hartley and Schneck 1996).³⁸ As an example of local changes to standardized plans, District Ranger Bruce Torgny suggested that the garage doors be moved from the façade to the rear elevation in order to preserve scenic views and avoid unsightly parking in front of the building (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).

³⁸ In Hartley and Schneck's 1996 inventory of Forest Service administrative building plans, the Combination Office building plan is also identified as M199 and B56.

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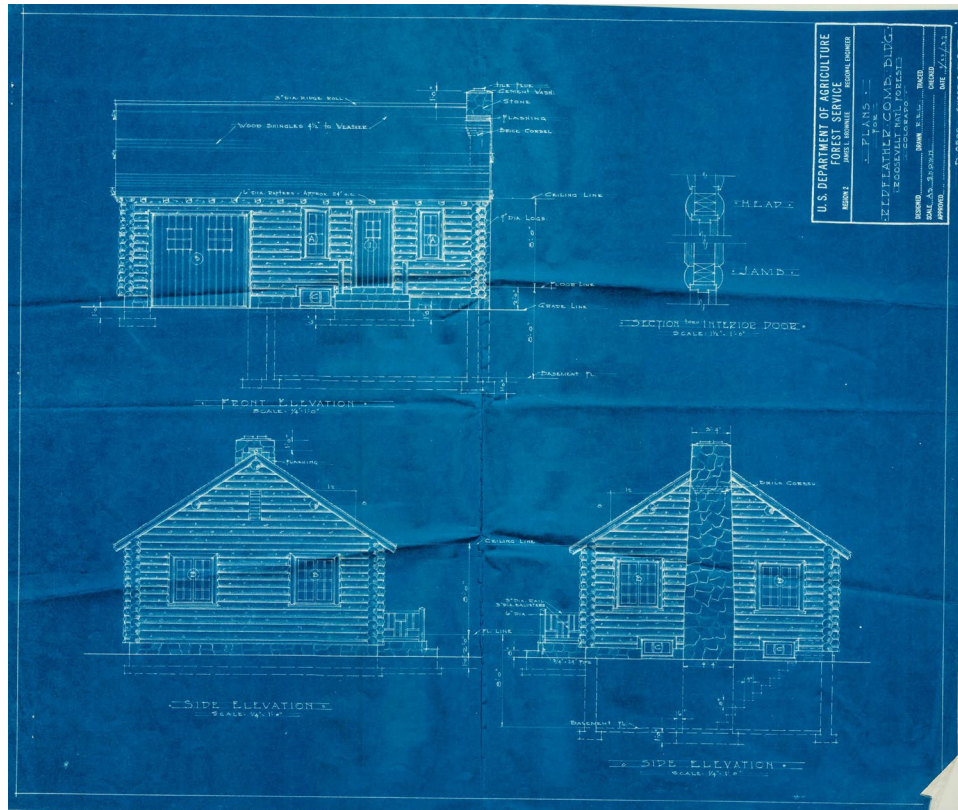


Figure 20: One of two designs created for the Redfeather Combination Office. This design, with the garage doors on the façade, was not constructed. Source: On file at U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

The work of Forest Service engineers and designers in the 1910s and 1920s laid the groundwork for the explosion of building construction that occurred throughout National Forests in the 1930s, propelled by the workforce offered by the CCC program and the increase in the number of architects and engineers working for the Forest Service through New Deal funding. With these resources, the Forest Service was able to quickly upgrade its buildings and facilities and solidify an agency architectural vocabulary that reflected its mission and identity, today recognized as the Forest Service Rustic style (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

The Rustic style had its origins in the Picturesque architectural styles of the 19th century and the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 20th century, both of which favored the use of hand labor and natural materials as opposed to modern materials and construction techniques. The growing field of landscape architecture added another component, establishing landscape and setting as important design considerations and advocating for buildings, particularly in natural areas, to be responsive to their larger context. After the Civil War, summer homes and estates designed and built in natural unspoiled locations such as New York's Adirondack Mountains were some of the earliest examples of the widespread adoption of the Rustic style. As the popularity and financial support for national parks accelerated in the early 20th century, the National Park Service also adopted the Rustic style for its increasing number of park buildings, from comfort stations to guest cabins and lodges. Common architectural details included wood shingle roofs, log construction, stone foundations, exposed rafter tails, and dark-stained siding (National Park Service n.d.).

In order to adequately respond to the resources offered by the federal government during the Depression, the Forest Service established an Architectural Division in 1936 (in addition to its existing engineering divisions), staffed by architects, landscape architects and site planners. Most notable was W. Ellis Groben, hired as consulting architect in 1936. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Groben strongly felt that current Forest Service designs did not "possess Forest Service identity ... or adequately express its purposes" (Otis et al. 1986:209). Among other improvements, he advocated for a regional approach to design, based on local architectural styles and materials that harmonized with a site's natural environment (Groben 1938). In the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest

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regions, this advice most often resulted in Rustic style designs, executed with large diameter logs and irregularly laid stonework (Wilson 2017).

In 1938, working with Division of Engineering Chief T.W Norcross, Groben published *Acceptable Plans, Forest Service Administrative Buildings*, an encyclopedic compilation of proposed and built Forest Service plans for housing, administrative buildings, shops and service buildings, garages, warehouses, barns, camping and picnic areas, organizational camps, winter sports areas, lodges, summer homes and lookout towers. That same year Groben also published *Principles of Architectural Planning for Forest Service Administrative Improvements*. Both were written to assist less-experienced regional architectural staff by defining several regional styles using examples of Forest Service designs from around the country, including several Rustic style designs from Region 2.

The New Deal also provided, for the first time, the resources needed to hire landscape architects to provide guidance for ranger station site layout and design. Consulting Landscape Architect A.D. Taylor's *Problems of Landscape Architecture in the National Forests*, published in 1936, depicted a preferred balanced arrangement of buildings that placed a ranger dwelling opposite the driveway from an office and other service buildings. Rural dwellings and offices faced the road or were oriented toward a scenic view (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The barn or garage was at the end of the driveway or approach road. Under Taylor's guidance, administrative complexes exhibited a continuity of design and materials that previous stations had not. The rural ranger stations presented an informal appearance that complimented their natural settings but were also welcoming. A flagpole, parking area and walkway led visitors the station's Office. Signage, fencing, and both existing and planted native landscaping also directed visitors and delineated public, residential and working spaces.

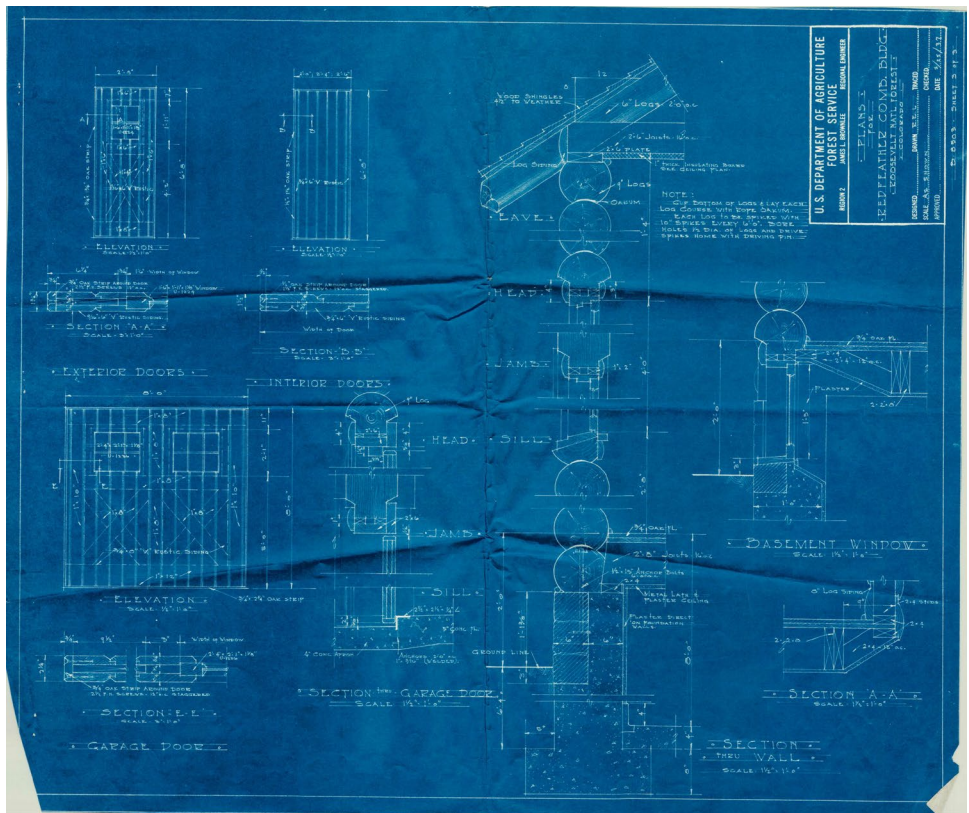


Figure 21: Plans for the Combination Office illustrated the typical Forest Service Rustic style details used on the three Redfeather log buildings, including “V” Rustic siding doors, rounded window and door surrounds, and exposed log rafter tails with bluntly pointed ends. Source: On file at U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor’s Office, Fort Collins, CO.

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As the prolific 1930s unfolded, the Forest Service's Architectural Division solidified its interpretation of the Rustic style, which employed natural settings and local materials to harmonize with the physical environment. Construction in this era, predominantly executed by New Deal labor, was united by its standardized design, rustic appearance, and labor-intensive composition. Forest Service-designed and CCC-constructed buildings consistently were built with either frame or log construction, with high concrete or battered split-stone foundations, stone chimneys, small-paned windows, deeply overhung roofs, and minimal detailing. Walls were constructed from peeled, shaved logs, square hewn logs or wide clapboard siding (Hartley and Schneck 1996). Moderately pitched gable roofs, designed to shed snow at high elevations, featured exposed log purlins or frame rafters. Gable ends often featured vertical log or board siding, with attic vents at the peak. Casement, double-hung and hopper wood frame windows were common, typically manufactured by Andersen or Curtis (Hartley and Schneck 1996). Wood and wood products were used extensively in interiors as well. Waxed wood flooring and walls, ceilings and cabinetry comprised of NuWood, Plywood, Masonite, and Beaver Board were typical. Porches or shed roofs protected entries. Barn and garage doors opened in or up and were oriented to the south when possible. Site planning used topography and native vegetation to provide wind and storm protection (Roth 2004).

The designs for both the buildings and the site layout at the Redfeather Ranger Station originated in the Rocky Mountain Region's Architectural Division, established in 1936. Regional Architect W. Earle Jackson supervised a staff of 11 architects.³⁹ The team produced detailed construction plans for nearly every building constructed during the New Deal era in the region, including plans for Rustic style log buildings for at least 18 ranger and guard stations. Jackson designed one of the earliest signed plans for a frame Rustic style building in Forest Service records, the Sunlight Ranger Station Garage and Shop on the Shoshone National Forest in December 1936 (Hartley and Schneck 1996).⁴⁰ For Redfeather, he created the station site plan dated March 8, 1937, plans for the Office's subterranean engine room dated May 8, 1937, and the case detail plans for the Combination Office dated December 15, 1938.

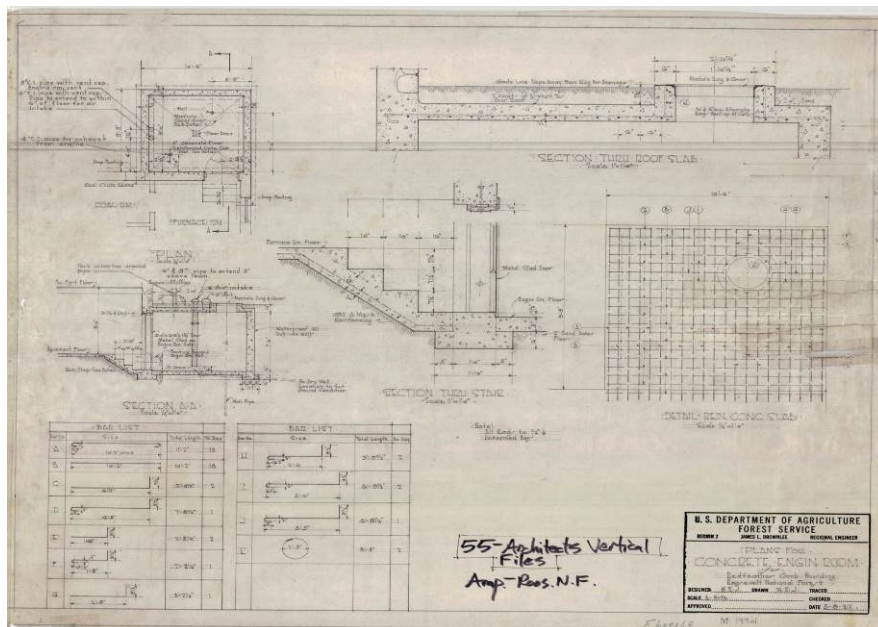


Figure 22: 1937 plans for the concrete subterranean engine room off the eastern end of the Redfeather Office basement. Source: On file at U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Architect Arthur G. Longfellow designed the Ranger Dwelling, the most architecturally-significant building in the complex, by modifying plans for the dwelling at the Sunlight Ranger Station on the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming, with

³⁹ According to Grosvenor 1999 and Hartley and Schneck 1996, Jackson may have worked for the Forest Service as early as 1933 and appears to have retired in 1942. Region 2 did not employ another Regional Architect until 1959.

⁴⁰ Hartley and Schneck further note that Region 2's architectural record for this time period is incomplete and that many of the extant plans are unsigned, making it difficult to attribute the Region's many examples of the Rustic style to one or more architects.

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additional input and design suggestions from District Ranger Bruce Torgny (U.S. Forest Service 1936-1946).⁴¹ Longfellow's other known works for the Forest Service include the Spanish Colonial Style Ranger's Dwelling No. 1 on the San Juan National Forest and a Colonial Revival dwelling on the Uncompahgre National Forest. His time with the Forest Service was brief, about one year (Hartley and Schneck 1996). In their statewide evaluation of Forest Service administrative buildings in Colorado, Hartley and Schneck describe the Redfeather Ranger Dwelling as one of the Rocky Mountain Region's "most articulate Rustic Style examples" (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

The other buildings at Redfeather also demonstrate the Region's efficient practice of re-utilizing designs during the Depression, often modifying them to meet local needs and preferences at each site. Although no plans have been located for the Assistant Ranger Dwelling at Redfeather, its plan and appearance are similar to a dwelling built in 1940 by the CCC enrollees from Camp F-67-C at the Mesa Lake Ranger Station on Grand Mesa National Forest (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The Redfeather Garage design closely followed the standard Mancos design (plan B6), first used at the Mancos Ranger Station on the San Juan National Forest, and then at the Buckhorn Ranger Station (Roosevelt National Forest), the Encampment Ranger Station (Medicine Bow National Forest), and the Yampa Ranger Station (White River National Forest) (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

Redfeather's site design closely adhered to Forest Service guidance at the time. The Office and Ranger Dwelling, located at the top of a rise about 120 feet apart, are visible to the public entering the station. A flagstone pathway connects the Office and the Ranger Dwelling. The core of the complex is signed and fenced, with a cattle guard originally protecting the station access road. A visitor parking area, a flagpole and signage distinguish the Office from other station buildings. The Garage and other work activity areas are located at the rear of the complex, screened by trees.

During this era, although Forest Service architects in the Rocky Mountain Region designed buildings in various architectural styles given local building trends, the Region constructed more Rustic style buildings than all other styles combined.⁴² Additionally, in rural locations Rustic style buildings were almost always constructed with logs, rather than with wood frame construction (Hartley & Schneck 1996). From 1933 to 1942, the Forest Service built or expanded more than twenty ranger stations in Colorado using log construction and Rustic style designs. Today, although several continue to illustrate this architectural theme, Redfeather Ranger Station remains the largest and appears to be the least altered architect-designed Rustic style example in the state.

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⁴¹ Among Torgny's suggestions adopted by Longfellow was the widening of the doorway between the living and dining rooms in order to bring additional sunlight into the core of the dwelling. Torgny also made a number of suggested architectural changes during the construction of the dwelling at the nearby Stub Creek Ranger Station, built by a F-50-C side camp in 1936 (Hartley & Schneck 1993c).

⁴² For example, Pueblo style buildings were typically built in the southern half of the state where the style was prevalent (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

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Smith, J. Morgan. 12/15/1936. *Sketch Plan for Redfeather Ranger Station, Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado*. On file with the U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

T.T., designed, drawn and traced by, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 2. 7/1/1937. *Underground Electric Plan for Redfeather Ranger Station, Roosevelt National Forest*. Plan M-20301. On file with the U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

T.T., designed by, and A.E.H., drawn and traced by, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 2. 7/26/37. *Electrical Plans for Sunlight & Redfeather Ranger Stations, Shoshone Nat. For. & Roosevelt*. Job B53. On file with the U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

W.E.J. [W. Earle Jackson], drawn by. 3/8/1937. *Redfeather Ranger Station, Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado*. On file with the U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

W.E.J. [W. Earle Jackson], designed by, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 2. 5/8/1937. *Plans for Concrete Engin [sic] Room for Redfeather Comb. Building, Roosevelt National Forest*. On file with the U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

W.E.J. [W. Earle Jackson], designed by. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 2. 12/15/1938. *Case Details Redfeather Comb. Bldg. Roosevelt Nat. Forest*. Job No M47301*. On file with the U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee Grassland, Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5LR1864

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.4 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(Insert additional points as needed.)

1	<u>40.7940389°N</u> Latitude	<u>105.5723541°W</u> Longitude	3	<u>40.7922616°N</u> Latitude	<u>105.5714118°W</u> Longitude
2	<u>40.7940206°N</u> Latitude	<u>105.5696216°W</u> Longitude	4	<u>40.7925895°N</u> Latitude	<u>105.5731049°W</u> Longitude

Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District
Name of Property

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or

UTM References

Datum:

NAD 1927 _____ or **NAD 1983** X

(Insert additional UTM references as needed.)

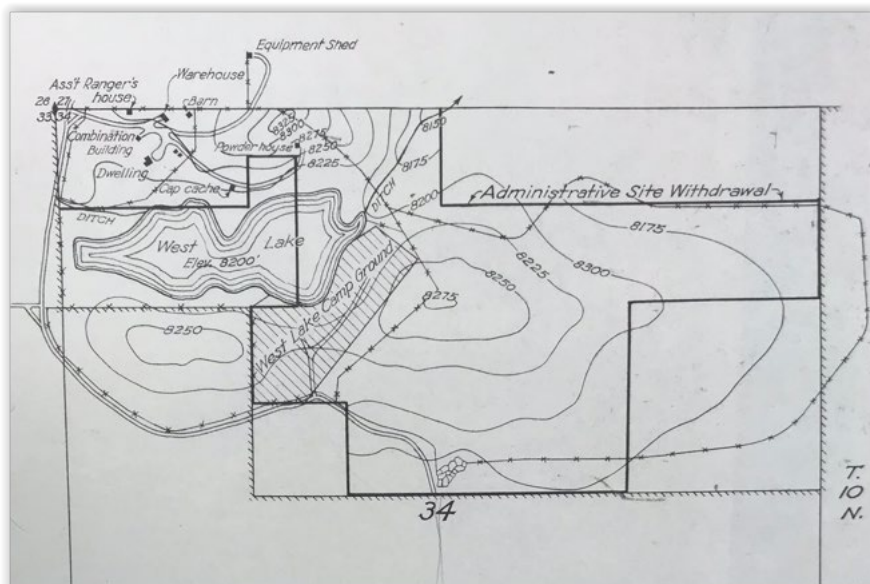
1	<u>13</u>	<u>451714</u>	<u>4516051</u>	3	<u>13</u>	<u>451792</u>	<u>4515853</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>13</u>	<u>451945</u>	<u>4516047</u>	4	<u>13</u>	<u>451650</u>	<u>4515890</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses 10.4 acres in the northwestern corner of Section 34, Range 73W, Township 10N in Larimer County, Colorado. The wedge-shaped boundary largely follows station perimeter fencing largely in place since the district's construction between 1936 and 1942. The nominated district boundary begins approximately 222 feet east of the intersection of Sections 28, 27, 33 and 34 and follows the section boundary between Sections 33 and 34 east for 756 feet. The boundary then heads south for 170 feet, before turning southwesterly for 674 feet, south-southwesterly for 483 feet, and west-northwesterly for 369 feet to the station's front perimeter fencing. From this point, the boundary turns northerly, following the station's perimeter fence along Dowdy Lake Road to the fence's intersection with the boundary's starting point 222 feet east of the intersections of Sections 28, 27, 33 and 34.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District is located in the community of Red Feather Lakes, CO, on the 1.5 million acre Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. The historic district boundary encompasses the administrative core of the ranger station, as constructed between 1936 and 1942. Site plans as early as 1944 depict the fenced wedge-shaped boundary (see figure 23). Today, the fencing remains along the western district boundary and is partially intact along the eastern and southern district boundaries. All of the buildings, site features, landscapes and circulation networks that contribute to the historic district's significance area included within the boundary. Recent additions to the station, such as the fire operations buildings and the helibase built in 2002, are excluded.



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Figure 23: An excerpt from a 1944 site plan, as updated through 1954, showing the administrative core of the historic ranger station, bounded by wedge-shaped fencing, in the northwestern corner of Section 34, Range 73 W, Township 10 N (R.F.B. and Blackmer 1944) Source: On file at U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Forest Supervisor's Office, Fort Collins, CO.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lawrence Fullenkamp, U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, North Zone Archaeologist; Elizabeth H. Muzzey, Forest Service ACES Program
organization U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland date _____
street & number 2150 Centre Avenue Building E telephone 970-295-6619
city or town Fort Collins state CO zip code 90526
e-mail Lawrence.Fullenkamp@usda.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) or **Google Earth** map indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District (CO_Larimer County_Redfeather Ranger Station)
City or Vicinity: Dowdy Lake Road, Red Feather Lakes
County: Larimer State: CO
Photographer: Lawrence Fullenkamp, Amberle Czubernat
Date Photographed: 7/21/22, 8/24/22, 9/27/22, 11/11/22

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- Photo 1:** Ranger Dwelling, façade (southwest elevation) and northwest elevation, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22
- Photo 2:** Ranger Dwelling, façade (southwest elevation) and southeast elevation, camera facing northeast, 7/21/22
- Photo 3:** Ranger Dwelling, southeast and northeast (rear) elevations, camera facing west, 7/21/22
- Photo 4:** Ranger Dwelling, northeast elevation (rear), camera facing southwest, 7/21/22
- Photo 5:** Ranger Dwelling, northeast elevation (rear) and northwest elevation, camera facing south, 7/21/22
- Photo 6:** Ranger Dwelling, façade (southwest elevation) and northwest elevation, porch, main entry, living room chimney and walkway details, perimeter fencing and West Lake in the right distance, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22
- Photo 7:** Ranger Dwelling, walkway leading from the Ranger Dwelling porch to the Office (center distance), camera facing northwest, 7/21/22
- Photo 8:** Ranger Dwelling, northeast elevation, rear entry landing, walkways and retaining wall, Office in the distance, camera facing northwest, 7/21/22

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Photo 9: Ranger Dwelling, rear walkway, retaining wall and steps to parking area behind building, camera facing northeast, 7/21/22

Photo 10: Ranger Dwelling interior, view from dining room to foyer and main entry, living room to left, note log walls and trim, wood "V" Rustic siding doors, oak floors and wood plank ceiling, camera facing northwest, 7/21/22

Photo 11: Ranger Dwelling interior, living room fireplace, camera facing northwest, 8/24/22

Photo 12: Ranger Dwelling interior, log phone nook, modernized kitchen to left, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22

Photo 13: Ranger Dwelling interior, typical bedroom space, log walls, oak flooring, wood plank ceiling, casement windows, camera facing northeast, 8/24/22

Photo 14: Office, façade (southwest elevation) and immediate setting, camera facing northeast, 7/21/22

Photo 15: Office, façade (southwest elevation) and southeast elevation, camera facing north, 7/21/22

Photo 16: Office, southeast and northeast (rear) elevations, round light well for the subterranean engine room in the foreground, coal chute door left of the rear entry, paired double 2x3 pane casement windows in the location of the garage bay prior to 1950, camera facing west, 7/21/22

Photo 17: Office northeast (rear) and northwest elevations, camera facing south, 7/21/22

Photo 18: Office, entrance sign on façade (southwest elevation), public parking and information kiosk in distance, camera facing northwest, 7/21/22

Photo 19: Log flagpole in front of Office, Garage in back right, public parking, information kiosk and Assistant Ranger Dwelling to back left, camera facing north, 8/24/22

Photo 20: Typical Office interior, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22

Photo 21: Office, concrete subterranean engine room off east corner of basement, camera facing northeast, 8/24/22

Photo 22: Assistant Ranger Dwelling and immediate setting, camera facing north, 7/21/22

Photo 23: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, façade (south elevation), camera facing northeast, 7/21/22

Photo 24: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, east and north (rear) elevations, camera facing southwest, 7/21/22

Photo 25: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, north (rear) and west elevations, clothesline in foreground, camera facing south, 7/21/22

Photo 26: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, west elevation and façade (south elevation), camera facing northeast, 7/21/22

Photo 27: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, living room, typical finishes include milled log siding for interior walls, wood "V" Rustic siding doors, oak floors and wood plank ceiling, camera facing north, 11/11/22

Photo 28: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, kitchen, camera facing west, 11/11/22

Photo 29: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, bedroom closet and finishes, camera facing west, 11/11/22

Photo 30: Assistant Ranger Dwelling, hallway to kitchen, original side entry door and basement steps, note use of knotty pine wall boards, camera facing west, 11/11/22

Photo 31: Garage, façade (southwest elevation) and immediate setting, camera facing northeast, 7/21/22

Photo 32: Garage, façade (southwest elevation) and southeast elevation, crew quarters (built 2002) at far right rear, beyond station district boundary, camera facing north, 7/21/22

Photo 33: Garage, southeast elevation, engine house (built 2002) to the right rear of the Garage, north of the station district boundary, camera facing northwest, 7/21/22

Photo 34: Garage, northeast (rear) elevation and work areas behind it, camera facing southwest, 7/21/22

Photo 35: Garage, northwest elevation, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22

Photo 36: Garage, showing typical interior finishes in the shop area, camera facing southeast, 9/27/22

Photo 37: View of the Garage and larger setting from near the former location of the wind tower on a rocky hill about 80 feet west of the Garage, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22

Photo 38: Station entrance off Dowdy Lake Road, Office in the center background, Ranger Dwelling in the right background, camera facing east, 8/24/22

Photo 39: Station entrance sign and access road, Office in the right background, camera facing east, 8/24/22

Photo 40: Visitor information kiosk and parking north of Office, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22

Photo 41: CCC-era incinerator, helibase building just beyond district perimeter fencing in background, camera facing southeast, 7/21/22

Photo 42: CCC-era incinerator, camera facing down into center, 7/21/22

Photo 43: Rear yard area of Ranger Dwelling, two clotheslines, well, fencing and gate, West Lake in the distance, camera looking southeast, 8/24/22

Photo 44: Location of former wind tower, Office in right background, camera facing south, 7/21/22

Photo 45: Northeast wind tower footing, camera facing southwest, 7/21/22

Photo 46: Southeast wind tower footing, camera facing northwest, 7/21/22

Photo 47: Southwest wind tower footing, camera facing northeast, 7/21/22

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Photo 48: Northwest wind tower footing, camera facing southwest, 7/21/22

Photo 49: Ten person crew quarters, built 2002 northeast of the Garage and station district boundary, camera facing east, 8/24/22

Photo 50: Engine house for fire fighting equipment, built 2002 north of the Garage and station district boundary, camera facing west, 8/24/22

Photo 51: Office and pilot ready room for the helibase constructed in 2002 east of the Ranger Dwelling and the station district boundary, camera facing northwest, 7/21/22

Photo 52: Helibase 20' x 20' concrete landing pad, West Lake and the Mummy Range in the distance, camera facing west, 7/21/22

Photo 53: Paint shed, relocated from within the station district east to the helibase area, camera facing north, 7/21/22

Photo 54: Paint shed interior, relocated from within the station district east to the helibase area, camera facing east, 7/21/22

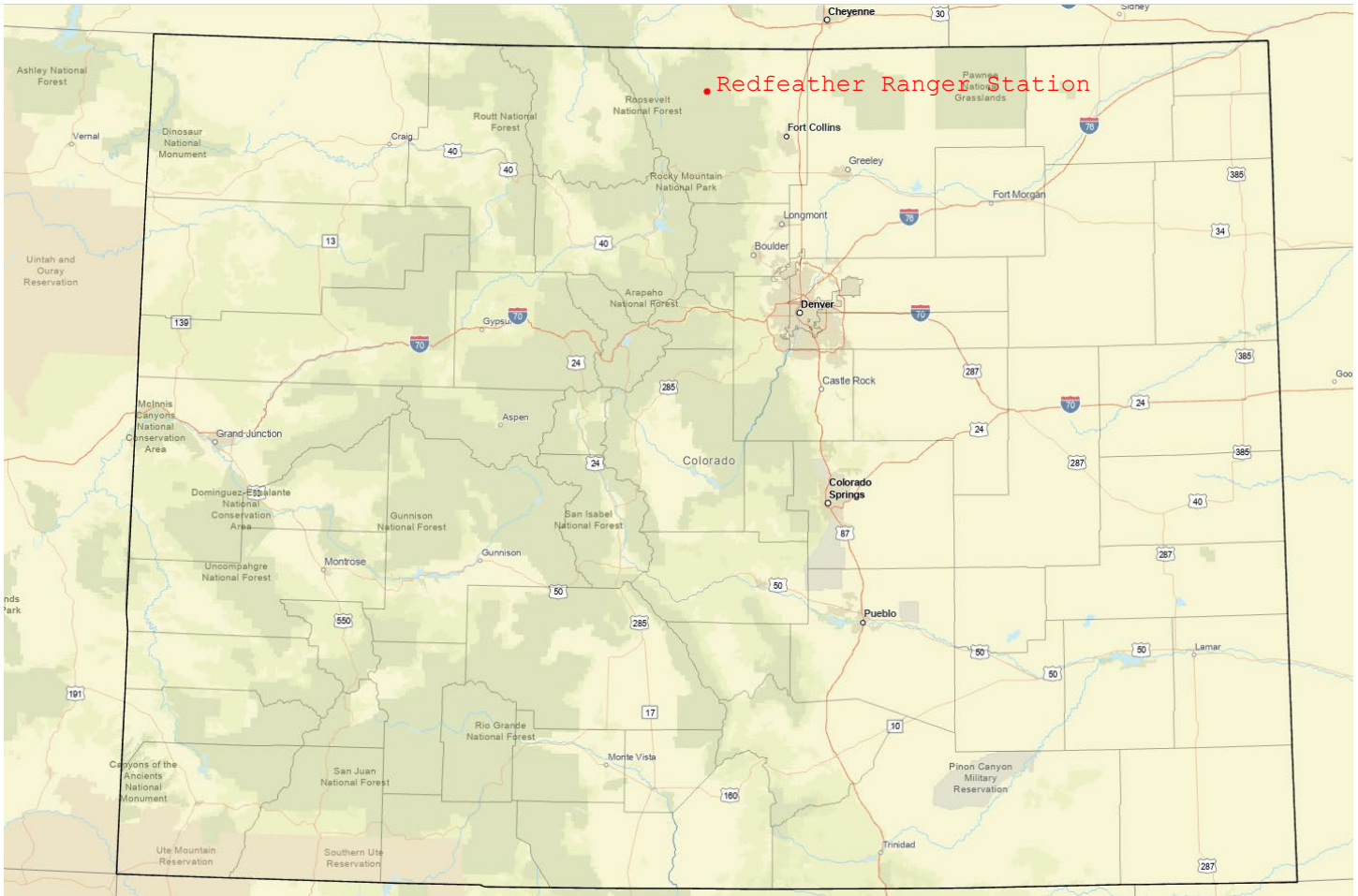
Photo 55: Portable weather monitoring system located in the southwestern portion of the historic district, camera facing west, 9/27/22

Photo 56: Well/pump house north of the station entrance, camera facing south, 8/24/22

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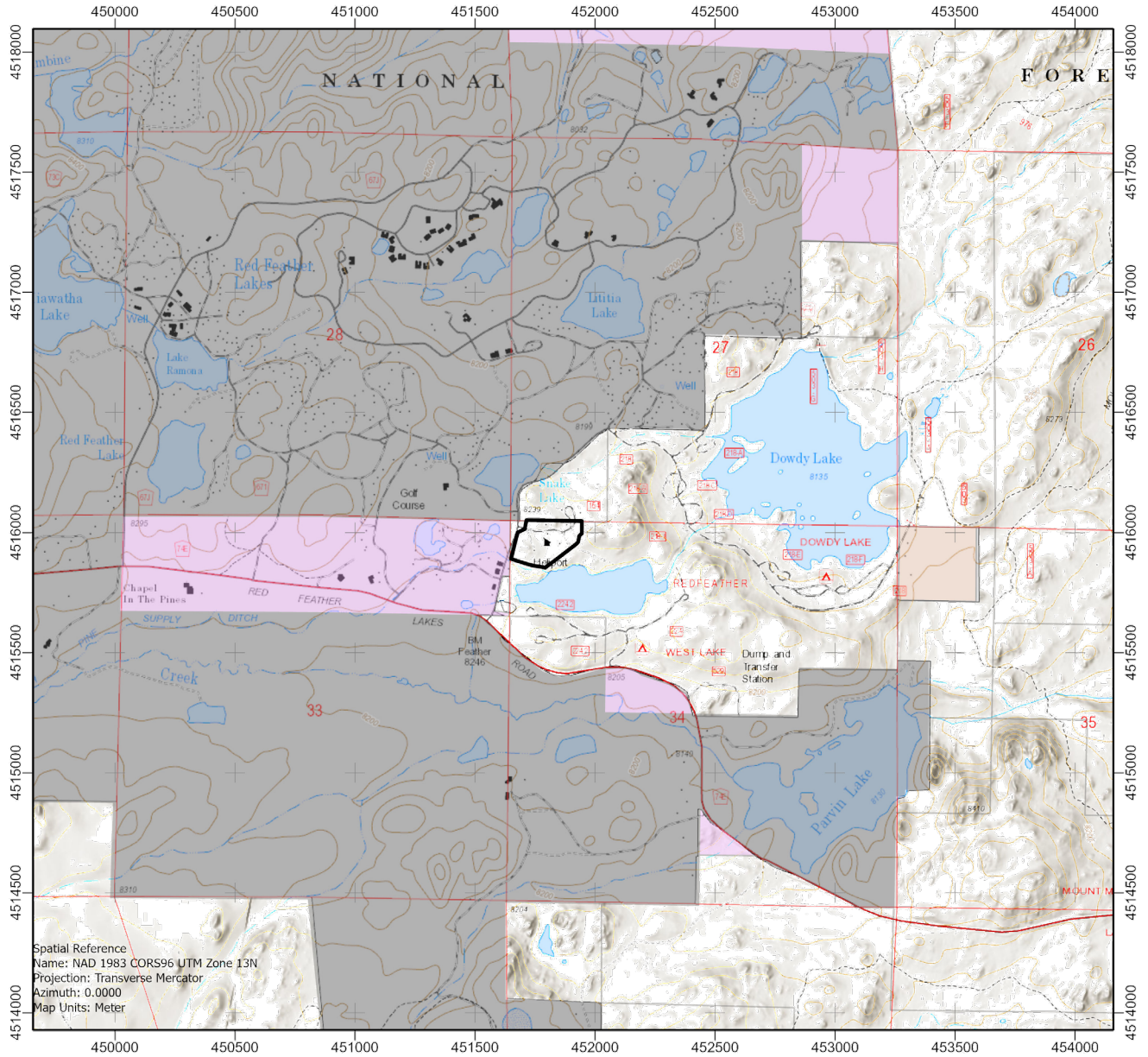
Geographic Map Showing the Location of the Redfeather Ranger Station



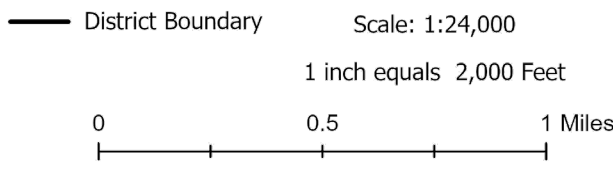
Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District
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Redfeather Ranger Station District Boundary



Spatial Reference
 Name: NAD 1983 CORS96 UTM Zone 13N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Azimuth: 0.0000
 Map Units: Meter



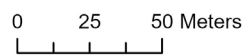
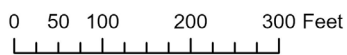
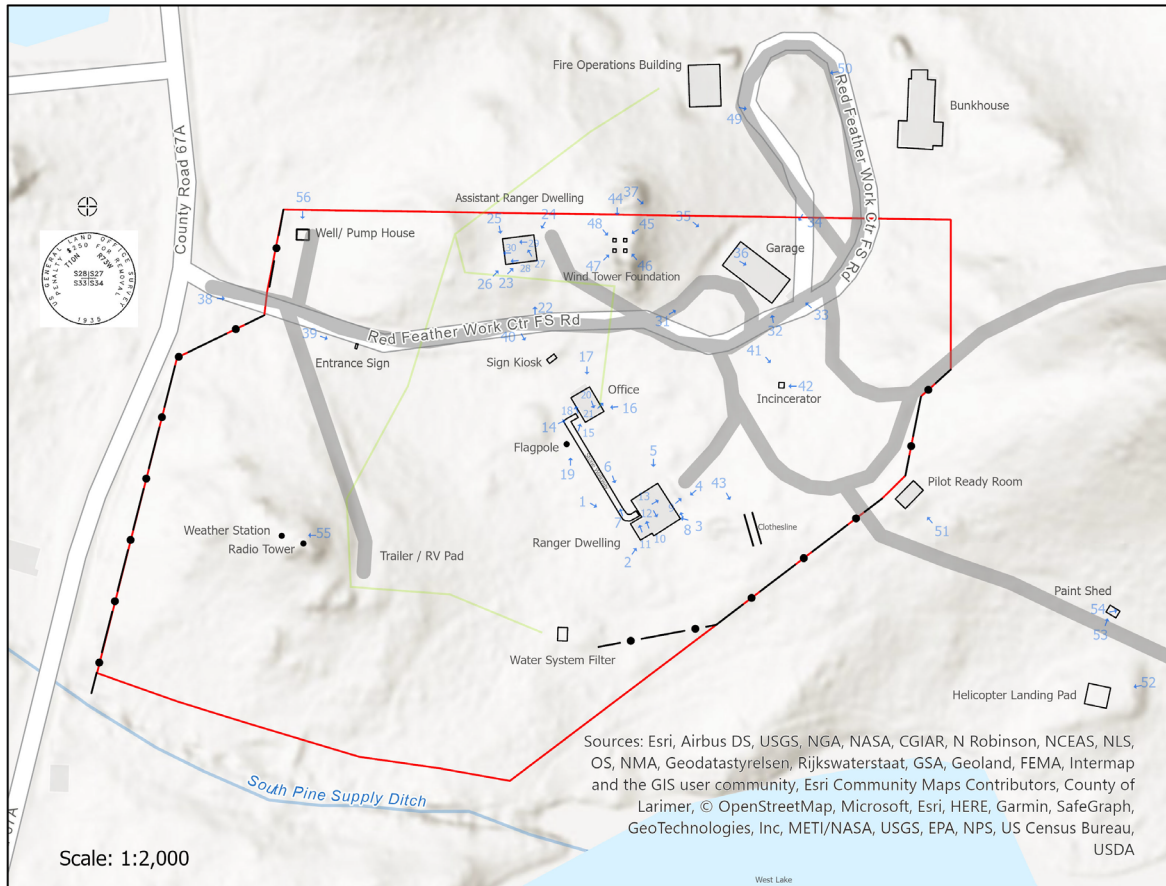
Redfeather Ranger Station
 5LR1864
 National Register District Boundary (10.4 Acres)
 N 1/2 of NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4
 T. 10N, R. 73W Section 34
 Roosevelt National Forest
 Larimer County, Colorado



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Redfeather Ranger Station Historic District Sketch Map and Photo Key



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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.