



## Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site: Rural Fire Assistance



The National Park Service, in conjunction with Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, recently provided funding for rural fire assistance to the Kiowa County Fire Department. The department received a total of \$6,000. The grant was awarded through the Rural Fire Assistance Program authorized under the National Fire Plan. The program is designed to increase firefighter safety and enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments located near national park units.



Assistance from the adjacent volunteer fire department is vital at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. According to Alexa Roberts, Superintendent, "This is a great opportunity for Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site to help our neighboring fire department in the development of a mutually beneficial partnership. Smaller park units, such as Sand Creek, require significant assistance from local fire departments to respond to structural and wildland fires. And because this National Park Service site is still being established our need for assistance and support is even greater."

The funds are being used to provide wildland fire training and to purchase personal protective equipment such as Nomex coats and pants, fire helmets, fire goggles and fire shelters. Other fire equipment needs including hand tools, radio chest harnesses, weather kits, hoses and fittings were also funded.