



National Park Service  
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## Rocky Mountain National Park Fire Management

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### **Team Effort Completes Fire Mitigation Project for Historic Leiffer Cabin**

Rocky Mountain National Park recently completed a fire mitigation project on a 12 acre tract of federal land near Longs Peak. The historic Leiffer cabin and several other outbuildings are completely surrounded by private property.

FireWise guidelines were utilized to create a zone of defensible space around the structures. Defensible space improves the ability of a structure to survive a low intensity wildfire in the absence of firefighter intervention, improves the ability of firefighters to safely protect structures and reduces the likelihood of a structure fire spreading to surrounding property.

Fuel reduction activities were conducted in a manner that minimized the impact to the natural surroundings and historic features. Crew members used hand tools and chainsaws to remove dead and downed vegetation and thin closely spaced trees to reduce the fuel load throughout the site. Some of the wood was sold as firewood and the remaining slash material was hauled off site to be burned this winter. The Alpine Interagency Hotshot Crew, park archeologist, backcountry office and facilities management staff assisted with completion of this project.

"It is important for the park to work cooperatively with our neighbors to minimize wildfire risk. This project compliments some of the efforts already underway in this area and can provide a positive example for other landowners interested in creating defensible space," said Superintendent Vaughn Baker.

The rustic two-story cabin was built in 1923 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Murray and Dorothy Leiffer donated the property to the park in 1977 in memory of their son and used the property until 1988. Park research crews occasionally use the cabin as a base of operations.

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