



**A, D, & J. SEEDHOUSE GUARD STATION DISTRICT**  
**County Road 64, north of Clark**

The Seedhouse Guard Station District is significant to the Forest Service community as well as the County in general as it reflects the growth of federal management of resources on lands in northwestern Colorado and the administration of those lands for broad benefit: The District represents the expansion of the original Forest Service mission of basic custodianship to extensive resource management and the significant role that high-country land conservation, management, and stewardship played in the County's development. The District, comprised of a guard station, a garage/barn, an outhouse, a hell diver, the remains of foundations, fencing, a meadow, and a large boulder deposited by a glacier, is a familiar visual feature to many in the North Routt community and represents the area's significant and varied history. The first guard station was built on the same site as the current one and dates to 1910, when facilities were established to provide for the collection and drying of lodgepole and spruce seeds collected from squirrel caches, then heated and dried, and later distributed. Hence, the building was dubbed The Seedhouse. The operation quickly became outdated and expensive, and after 1913, the building was used as a seasonal ranger station. The Seedhouse Campground evolved around the location. A simple, two-room, frame administrative building intended to house four had a concrete foundation, drop siding, a metal roof, and Celotex interior and was constructed to the north of the original building in 1934. The Civilian Conservation Corps (See above) might have constructed the building, but no primary sources document that speculation. In 1936, the garage/barn was constructed in the same style as the Guard Station. The hell diver, a small metal building with a gabled metal roof used for storage of firefighting equipment that could be quickly retrieved by volunteers when necessary, was generally painted red

and placed strategically near a road or campground. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Golden Aspen Tour, a special train for foliage-viewing that was popular with Denver-area residents, stopped at the Seedhouse Guard Station District. Forest Service employees addressed visitors from atop a large boulder—'The Aspen Shrine'—located in the meadow northeast of the building complex. Changes in technology and increased demands on use altered the way in which federal lands were administered. Seasonal work crews and volunteers largely replaced the ranger in manning the districts. Currently, the Seedhouse Guard Station is the seasonal residence of the Seedhouse Campground Manager; the garage/barn and outhouse still serve their original functions.