

a leading supplier of seedlings, Savenac was also a pioneer in research and development. Many of the techniques perfected during its formative years are still in use today. In addition to developing hardy varieties of trees, Savenac started using burlap-covered tree bales, instead of heavy wooden crates, to help cut shipping weight. Bales also made it easier to pack the mules which carried trees from the railroad to the planting camps. Savenac also developed the use of “shingle tow,” instead of sphagnum moss, to keep seedlings moist when being shipped. This shredded sawdust was free at local sawmills. Today, nurseries all over the country prefer “shingle tow” when they can get it.



*Early transportation of seedlings*

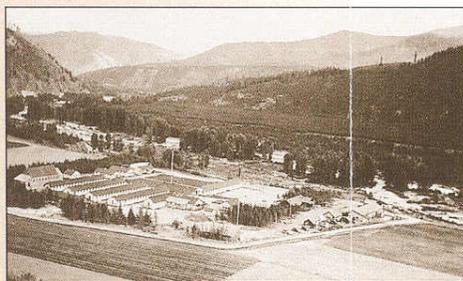
## 6. NEW JOBS, LASTING WORKS

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps was established to provide jobs for young men during the Depression. In 1935, approximately 200 men were posted across the St. Regis River from Savenac at Camp Taft. They cleared land for seedlings, and built a new administration building, cottages, a packing plant, a seed extractory, and the bridge where you're standing. The CCC also improved the grounds, constructing the formal landscaped entrance and lagoon. These improvements created a unique and unexpected destination for a new generation of tourists—one which lives on today.

## 7. FORM FOLLOWED FUNCTION

As Savenac's mission and activities have changed, so have its buildings and overall architecture.

From simple log cabins to clapboard bunkhouses, the buildings have represented the work at the nursery. After 20 years of growth, nursery demands outgrew the facility and it was time to rebuild, starting with the service buildings at the north end of the site which all date back to the 1930s. In 1932 the state of Montana abandoned the Yellowstone Trail and built Highway 10, which is the frontage road today. With the availability of CCC labor, the Forest



*Camp Taft, 1937*

Service rebuilt on a new, formal plan oriented to the new road. This plan separated the service areas and seed beds in back from the visitor/administration area in front and created a showplace to welcome visitors and display the purpose of the nursery. Completed in 1939, the administration building features the

simple but elegant CCC building style. To complement the formal landscaped entrance, builders added classical columns, side lights and three group windows in the gable end of the building, all of which are truly unique for this kind of government facility. The formal symmetry and elegance of the nursery, particularly in such a remote site in Montana, were as much a surprise to travelers in the 1930s as they are today.

## 8. BENCH MARKS

Up the road from here you can see remnants of the upper benches, where seedlings were first grown at Savenac.

As you explore this area, you'll find the original wooden planting signs (look for Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine Stock signs from 1911). You'll see the original irrigation dam which made water available to the entire nursery. You'll also see Savenac's oldest standing structure—an outhouse built around 1930.

## 9. A LIVING LEGACY

Large signs encouraged motorists on the new Yellowstone Trail to visit Savenac. As early as 1916, improvements were made to accommodate them. Ornamental trees and shrubs were planted, and an arboretum was built on the east side of Savenac Creek next to the Yellowstone Trail. Soon foresters from around the country came to see the Forest Service's showplace nursery, and to request excess ornamentals for their own facilities. In 1938, the arboretum was moved by the CCC to the west side of the site and dedicated to the



*Savenac Administration Building, 1910*



*Savenac Administration Building Today, Built in 1939*