

INFRA No: 8520530A, 8520530J, 8520530K, 8520530L, 8520530M,
8520530N, 8520530O, 8520530B, 8520530C, 8520530D,
8520530E, 8520530F, 8520530G, 8520530H.
Site Name: Hazlett Hollow Campground
Site Type/Function: Recreation
Date of Construction: 1930s
Acreage: 9.6
Builder/Architect: USFS/CCC
Center UTM Location: 381500, 3781550
Township/Range/Section: 10N, 1E, N/A

Historical Context:

Hazlett Hollow Campground is part of the Horsethief Basin area, which is at the southern extremity of the Bradshaw Mountains in the Bradshaw Ranger District. Horsethief Basin is 7 miles southeast of Crown King, Arizona, and approximately 80 miles northwest of Phoenix. It is approximately 6,000 feet in elevation and is dominated by ponderosa pine.

The largest municipal park expansion and development program in the history of Phoenix began in 1933. When the last element of the program was completed in 1937, the city had increased the number of public parks from 3 to 14. One of these facilities was the Horsethief Basin Resort. The Great Depression acted as the catalyst in the park's development in Phoenix. New Deal programs, begun during President Theodore Roosevelt's first one hundred days, provided the financial opportunities to undertake public works projects and provide unemployment relief. New programs administered by the Public Works Administration (PWA) of the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) (Horsethief Basin HABS).

In the 1920s, the city leaders of Phoenix began to recognize the need to expand the existing park system. Mr. T.E. Hazlett of Phoenix contacted the U.S. Forest Service as early as 1923, requesting a road to Horsethief Basin be constructed, although District Forester Frank C.W. Pooler declined, based on lack of funding and the expense. In 1926, the Salt River Valley Resort Committee again approached the Forest Service about the road project, requesting a right-of-way permit so that the committee would finance construction of the road and resort. The committee cited the need as a way of stabilizing the population of Phoenix, which declined 30% every summer. A study conducted for the committee concluded that Horsethief Basin could accommodate up to 3,000 people over the summer. The intention of the resort was to make it available to "all classes and preclude the possibility of control by any clique or self-perpetuating board. There will be provided automobile camps, cottage plan hotel, and segregated building site for houses ranging from the humble cabin to elaborate summer home" (Salt Valley Resort Committee 1926). In 1931, the Forest Service again could not justify construction of a road into Horsethief Basin, and the necessary water and sewage.

It was not until the city's annual budget hearing in the summer of 1933, that proponents succeeded in convincing city commissioners to earmark \$31,600 for park improvements. The park system envisioned by city planners was put forth before Phoenix voters in December 1933 as part of a \$1.9 million public works improvement bond election, with the greatest portion of the improvement project totaling \$915,000 being earmarked for the parks program (Horsethief Basin HABS).

The proposed parks program included development of the 2,600-acre Horsethief Basin recreational area as a summer resort. During early 1935, city officials pressed forward with plans for the park development at Horsethief Basin Recreational Area. The difference between the Horsethief Basin development and the other parks created by the City of Phoenix in the 1930s centered on the fact that Horsethief Basin was not

within the city limits. However, city officials advocated the creation of a city park because they believed that a recreational area constructed relatively close to Phoenix, but with a significantly cooler climate, would help offset the annual summer exodus from the city. The Horsethief Basin area filled those requirements in that it represented the “closest climate relief (linear miles) to the Phoenix metropolitan area.” The City of Phoenix gained access to the national forest land through Public Law 74-358, passed on August 27, 1935. The law authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to designate lands not to exceed 4,000 acres within PNF for use by the city of Phoenix for a recreational area (Horsethief Basin HABS). Construction began in September 1936 and Horsethief Basin Recreation Area was officially opened on May 29, 1937.

The original plans called for a summer home area of 55 sites (only 33 were ever developed), a dance pavilion (constructed), 2 campgrounds, each with 16 units (developed), 1 picnic area (8 units) with pavilion (developed), tennis courts with playground (developed), waterline from Horsethief Lake and sewage lines to 2 sewage plants (developed), 3 dams (only one developed). In addition, a store and 10 cabins were developed. For reasons of expense, poor road access, and general loss of need when effective air-conditioning became available in Phoenix, many planned facilities were never developed.

Although included in the city’s plans, the dam and campgrounds were not part of the city’s development. The Horsethief, or Barney Williams Dam, was constructed in 1936, and was likely funded and built by the Forest Service using CCC labor (Heritage Resource Inventory Report, Hazlett Hollow, 2008). The CCC also assisted with the development of Hazlett Hollow Campground, Turney Gulch Group Campground, and Kentuck Campground / Kentuck Springs Trailer and Tent Campground. A guard station near the entrance was also constructed. The picnic tables were R-3 standard portable wooden tables and the fireplaces and warming reflectors were standard R-3 (PNF memo 5/18/59).

The use of the area never did reach the original expectation due largely to poor road access to the area. By June 1964, the City of Phoenix was interested in disposing of the basin development due to the cost to maintain the area. On December 31, 1966, the City of Phoenix relinquished the permit and sold the recreation facilities and utility systems to the Forest Service. The resort was sold by the city to a private commercial operator who was issued a special-use permit by the Forest Service (store and 10 rental cabins). The 33 individual homes are administered under 33 individual special-use permits issued by the Forest Service. The community hall, tennis court, and playground were transferred to the Forest Service and were under permit to the Horsethief Basin Homeowners Association. The Forest Service also assumed complete administration of the public facilities, including the lake and operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater systems.

The Forest Service improved sections of the road in 1968 and 1970, upgraded Hazlett Hollow and Turney Gulch campgrounds in the late 1960s, upgraded the sewage system to meet state health department requirements in 1968, replaced the water purification system in 1968, installed an emergency use 5,000-gallon water tank in 1968, and in 1971 surveyed for a new waterline system. Kentuck Campground has been closed to camping, but is still listed as a day use area.

Description:

The Hazlett Hollow Campground is a small, semiprimitive campground, which is entered on a one-way loop road. There are 15 campsites with tables and grills and three-sided Adirondack-style shelters, and two toilets. Each originally had a campsite with a pull-in parking area, a fireplace, cooking grill, and a shelter. The shelters are redwood log-sided, with concrete floors and saltbox shingled roofs. Many of the original cooking grills, fireplaces, and tables have been replaced with barbeque grills and modern fixtures. Each site also contains stone retaining walls terracing the sites to create level areas. Some sites contain stone stairs. There are stone-lined paths from some campsites to the latrines.

Within the center of the campground is a log veneer storage building (originally a latrine) measuring approximately 9 feet by 21 feet. There are entry doors on the north, west, and south elevations. The east elevation has two high window openings with shutters hinged at the top that swing outward. There is a counter inside along the east wall dividing the single room into two spaces. The roof is gabled with wood shingles.

The campground also has a collection box and sign, and two modern wood latrines, one at each end of the campground. The campground has two water pumps, one original and one newer.

In May 1979, the campground underwent a rehabilitation project that included repairing rock walls, culvert boxes, parking areas. One campsite has been made wheelchair accessible with the installation of a cobblestone and concrete ramp. The slabs in the shelters were resurfaced, the pedestal barbeque grills were installed, traffic control posts (8 inches in diameter) were replaced, lumber in the picnic tables was replaced, the vault toilets were repaired and updated (one was made accessible), and the entrance sign and bulletin board were replaced.

Integrity:

Hazlett Hollow Campground received some minor renovations over the years, although it does retain integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association of a rustic CCC-constructed campground.

National Register Eligibility Recommendation:

Hazlett Hollow Campground is a good representation of a USDA, Forest Service, CCC-built recreation area built during the New Deal era. It also contains unique features for a PNF campground, namely the Adirondack-style shelters. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the CCC period and style of construction. It is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C.

The features that are included in this recommendation are the CCC-constructed tables Adirondack-style shelters, the original cooking grills and fireplaces, stone retaining walls, stone-lined paths, the log veneer storage building (originally a latrine), and the original water pump.

References:

Historic American Building Survey, Horsethief Basin Resort, HABS Number, no date

Letter from Frank C.W. Pooler, District Forester to Mr. E.T. Hazlett, Phoenix AZ, July 30, 1923

Letter from Salt River Valley Resort Committee to the Supervisor of the Prescott National Forest, dated June 14, 1926.

Letter from Frank C.W. Pooler, District Forester to Mr. George H. Todd, Phoenix Mayor, September 28, 1931

Memorandum for Assistant Regional Forester Cheney from John A. Adams, Regional Forest Inspector, dated May 18, 1935

Memorandum dated May 18, 1959, Prescott – City of Phoenix – Resort – 3/5/33, Arizona State Parks Board, from D.C. Stevens, Forester, to Zane G. Smith.

Memorandum dated July 27, 1979, to Regional Forester, from Donald H. Bolander Forest Supervisor, re: Horsethief Basin Water and Sewer Facilities.