

# Burgess Ranger Station, the Bighorn National Forest, and the Civilian Conservation Corps

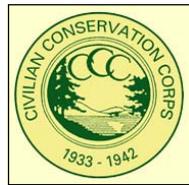
## The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)



*CCC crew planting trees near Dayton Wyoming*



*CCC camp on the Bighorn National Forest*



In 1929 Wyoming seemed far from Wall Street, but the stock market crash brought changes to all corners of the nation. To help recover from lost jobs, homes, and savings, President Roosevelt created the CCC. Nearly 3 million men enrolled for food, housing, and \$30 per month to build dams, roads, bridges, ranger stations, fire lookouts, reservoirs, trails, and campgrounds that are still in use today. They also learned skills such as mechanics, carpentry, forestry, cartography, and surveying while taking classes in English, math, biology, journalism, bookkeeping, and social sciences. These opportunities became careers for many men in “Roosevelt’s Tree Army.” Burgess Ranger Station was one of many projects the CCC accomplished in the Bighorn National Forest.



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1924

Burgess Ranger Station was in use by 1914 but all the historic buildings (two houses, a barn, an office, and a fire cache) are younger.



1935

Four were built by the CCC between 1934 and 1941. These are simple one-story log buildings with saddle-notched corners, gable roofs, stone foundations, multi-pane windows, stone porches, and cobblestone fireplaces.

## Burgess Ranger Station

The four CCC buildings at Burgess are good examples of the rustic style.



1935



1941

soil scientists, hydrologists, engineers, and maintenance crews who come every year to care for the forest.



1941

Historic photographs show many changes: cars and roads replace horses, and buildings appear and disappear, but the landscape looks the same and the station continues to be home to professional fire fighters, range riders, biologists, botanists, trail crews, foresters,

## Fire Cache

Due to deterioration, rodent infestation, and changing needs the fifth historic building at Burgess will be replaced.



This building has been used as a shop, wood storage, and storage for fire fighting equipment.



Although similar to CCC structures it differs in several ways: a concrete foundation instead of stone, square-notched rather than saddle-notched corners, wood chinking, and milled wood rafters.