

Early Settlement and the NEED FOR CONSERVATION

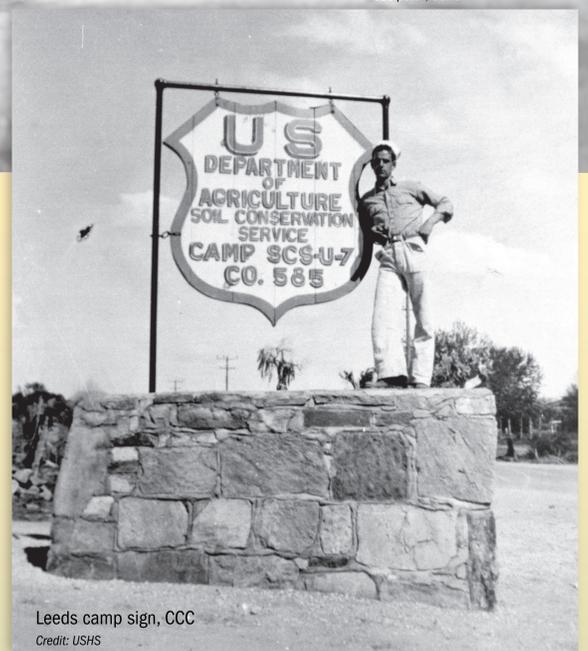


Early Conservation Efforts and the CCC

Throughout the Dixie National Forest and Red Canyon area there is evidence of people who lived here earlier. Immigrants began moving into southern Utah in the mid-1800s: They settled small communities, farmed, logged, and subsisted off the resources of this land. Their lives are evident in the roads, dams, and in some of the structures that still exist here.



CCC baseball team
Credit: USHS-Lamar Peterson



Leeds camp sign, CCC
Credit: USHS



Brian Head construction, CCC
Credit: Special Collections, Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University



Brian Head construction completed, CCC
Credit: Special Collections, Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University

Sometimes, the impact on the land was too much. During the late nineteenth-century Gold Rush, livestock grazers heading to California traveled through this area with large herds of sheep and cattle, depleting forage and water resources on their way to the gold fields. Subsequently, local communities requested that the federal government set aside forest reserves to protect resources they depend on.

Conservation efforts continued during the Great Depression of the 1930s when the national forests became a work area for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Work crews built facilities and paved roads—many of which are still in use today—to provide recreation and transportation opportunities for the public.

Heritage sites in the Dixie National Forest provide a rich picture of the past that we all share and enjoy. Help us protect these places from vandalism and litter.



Group of young CCC boys at their base camp
Credit: USHS-Lamar Peterson



Cowpuncher Guard station
Credit: USFS



Cattle branding
Credit: Special Collections, Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University

Credit: Dave Barger, Madison, WI

