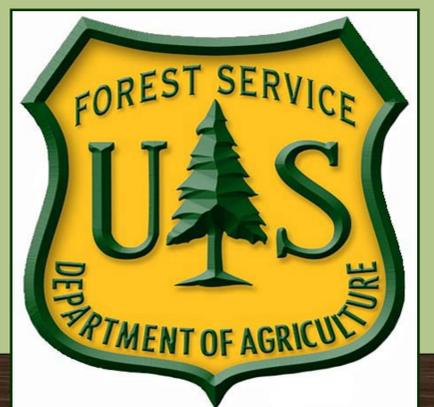




The Civilian Conservation Corps

on the

Nez Perce National Forest





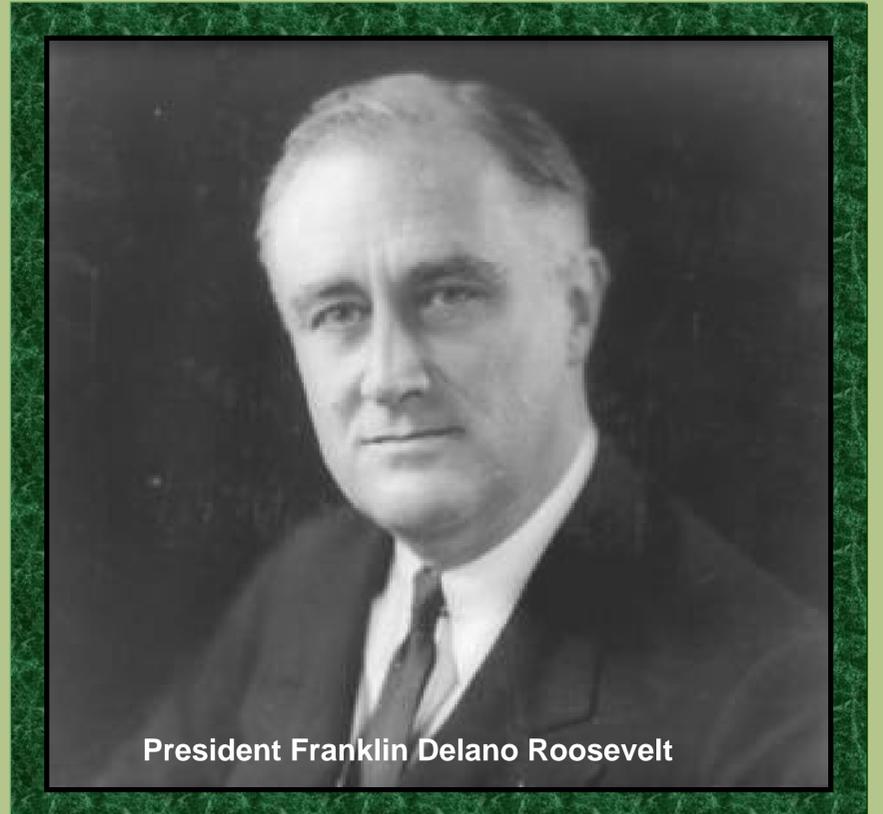
The Civilian Conservation Corps

1933 - 1942

As the country suffered the economic woes of the Great Depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt extolled the virtues of hard work. At the time of his inauguration in March of 1933 more than twenty-five percent of Americans were unemployed, hungry, and without hope. Roosevelt, not interested in the dole, was determined to preserve the pride of American workers in their own ability to earn a living, so he concentrated on creating jobs.

In his first 100 days in office, President Roosevelt approved several measures as part of his "New Deal", including the Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW), better known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Its purpose was two-fold -- carry out a broad natural resource conservation program on national, state and municipal lands and the employment of young men.

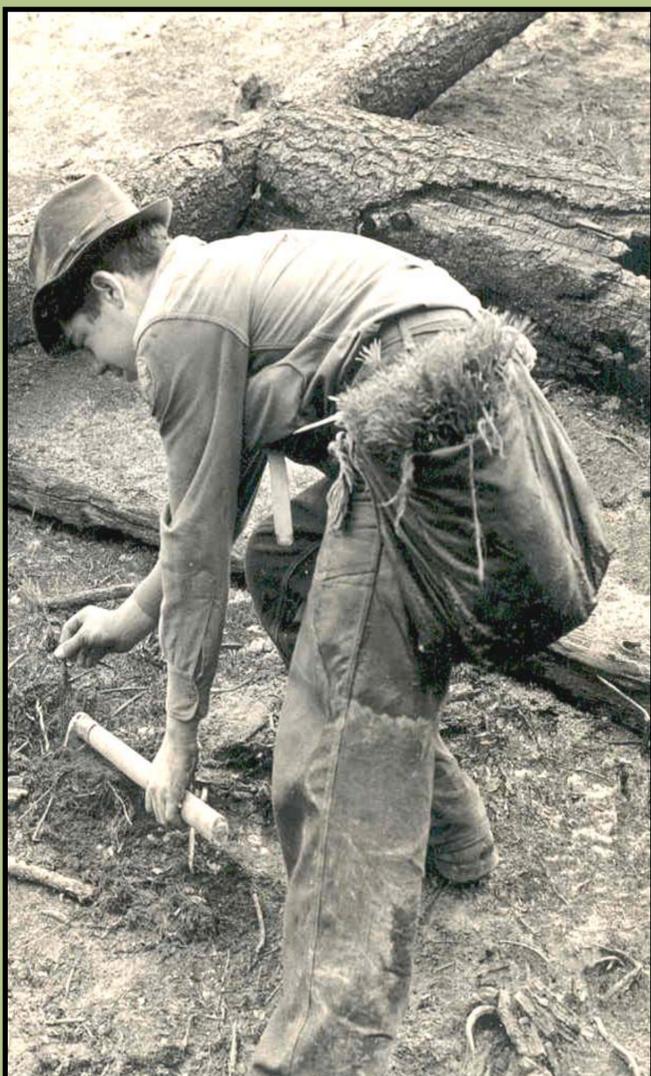
The New Deal programs instituted bold changes in the federal government that energized the economy and put men back to work.



President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"In creating this civilian conservation corps, we are killing two birds with one stone. We are clearly enhancing the value of our natural resources and second, we are relieving an appreciable amount of actual distress."

Franklin D. Roosevelt's fireside address, May, 1933.

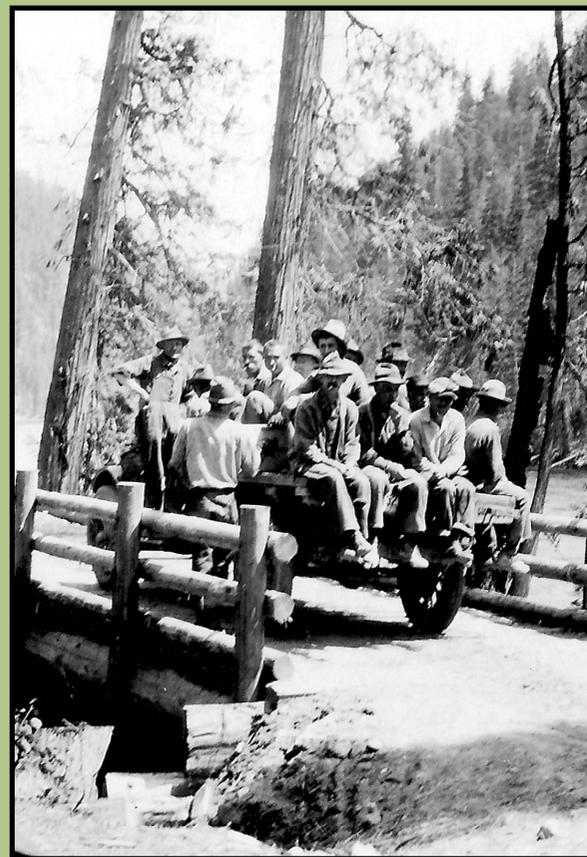


The Men



Eligibility requirements for the CCC carried several simple stipulations. Congress required U.S. citizenship only. Other standards were set by the Emergency Conservation Work Act. Sound physical fitness was mandatory because of the hard physical labor required. Men had to be unemployed, unmarried, and between the ages of 18 and 25. The age requirements were eventually relaxed for war veterans. Enlistment was for a duration of six months and many reenlisted after their allotted time was up.

There were millions of unemployed in the nation, skilled and unskilled, including high school graduates and college students. Young men 18 to 25 years of age could enlist in the CCC where they earned \$30 a month (\$36 or \$45 if they became assistant leaders or leaders). Most of this money was sent home to their families. Under this program the federal government put to work 3,463,766 men and boys, many whom had never held a job before.



Glover Camp CCC boys along the Selway River, 1934.



O'Hara CCC Camp along the Selway River.



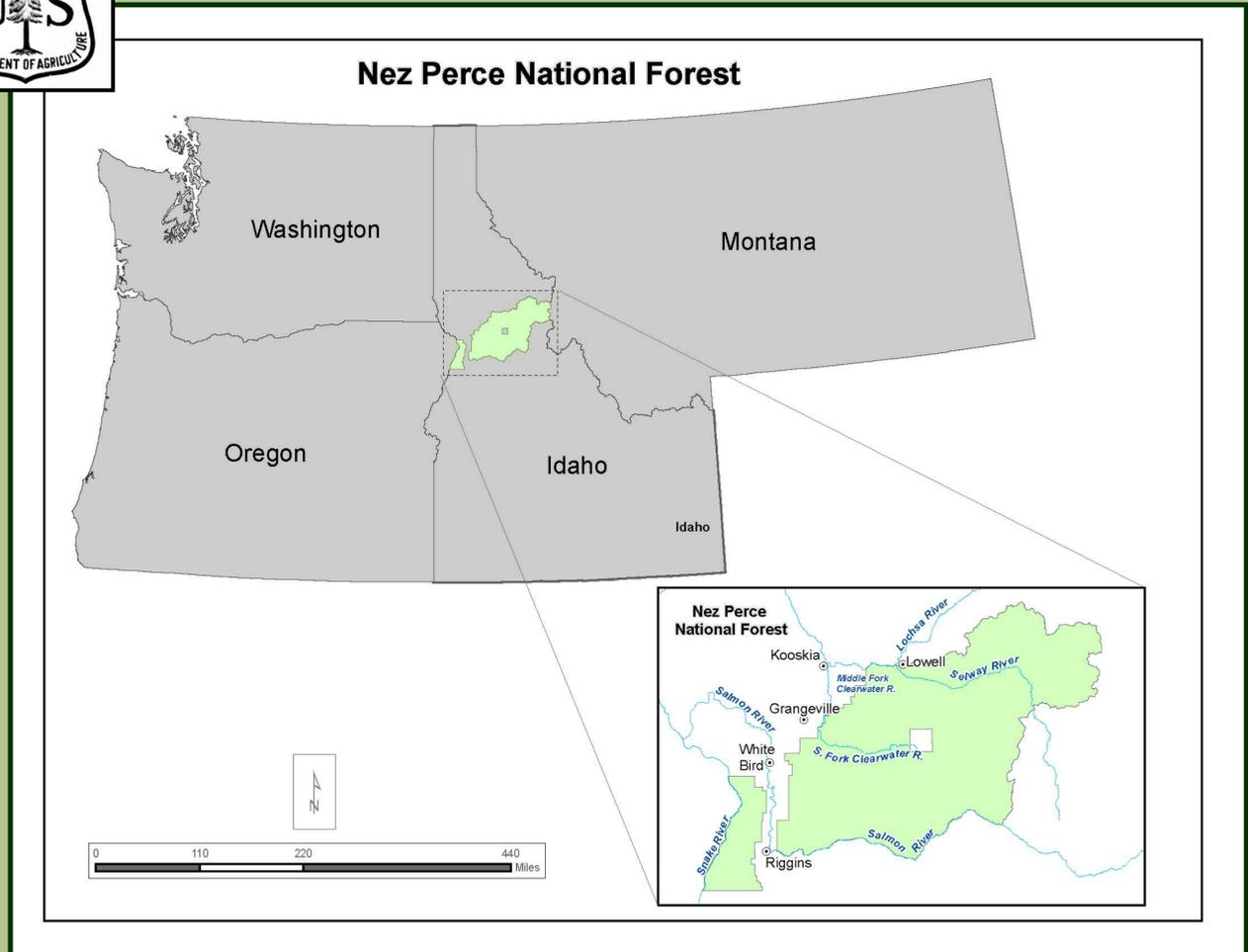
The Camps

The first CCC camp in the nation (Camp Roosevelt) was located in Virginia. Enrollees began enlisting into the CCC program on April 7, 1933. CCC camps were located in all 50 states and by 1942, more than 4000 had been established. Rather than establish a new bureaucracy, the president created this program within existing governmental departments. The camps were under control of the Army and resembled the regimented life on a military base of the time. The physical camp was also laid out in military fashion consisting of barracks, a kitchen, a mess hall, a recreation hall, supply buildings, garages, storage facilities, etc.

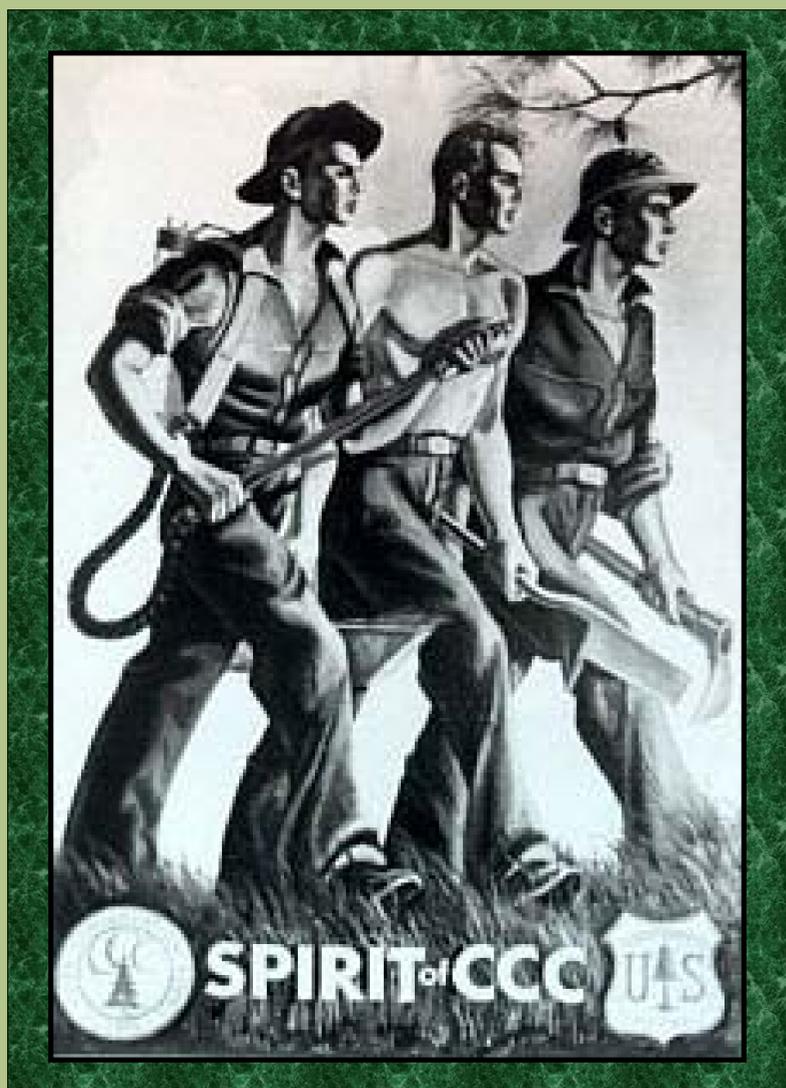
Each camp was composed of one company of about 200 men. Each company had a commander who was a regular Army or reserve officer plus a junior officer, camp doctor, and an educational advisor. The project superintendent was in charge of all work projects away from camp and had eight to ten foremen under him. These foremen were usually "Local Experienced Men" more commonly known as LEM's. The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture (Forest Service) were responsible for specific work projects and provided personnel to manage them.



Nez Perce National Forest



There were eleven CCC camps associated with or on the Nez Perce National Forest. Some of the camps were permanent while others served as seasonal spike camps set up to avoid daily transportation time and expense. Camps were established at Slate Creek, Glover Creek, O'Hara Creek, Slim's Camp, Tenmile Creek, Red River, Green Mountain, Trapper Creek, Selway Falls, French Creek and Pollock. By 1943 all of the camps had been dismantled.

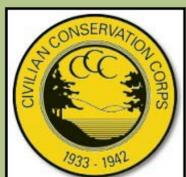


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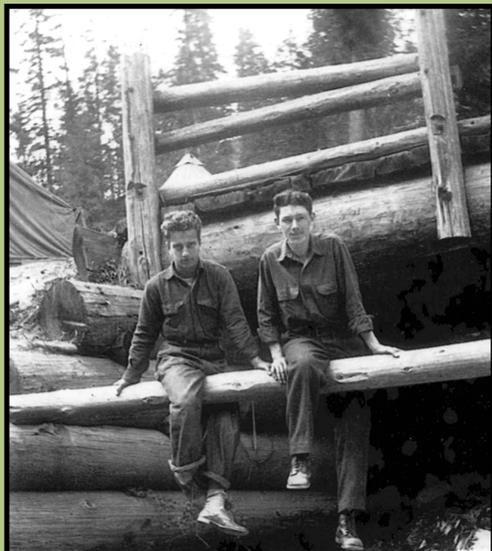
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Camp Glover

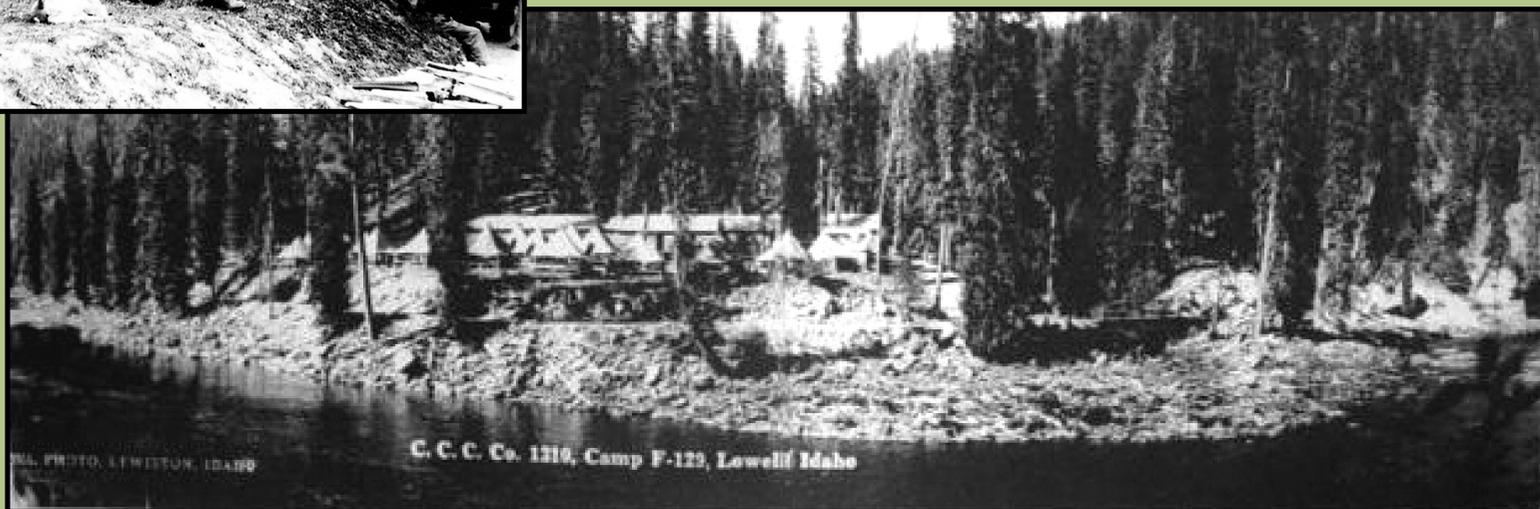
Glover—Company 1310, Camp F-129



A tent camp established at the mouth of Glover Creek in 1934 housed 80 enrollees from the Chicago area, along with a few local boys. Work projects included construction of the Fog Mountain, Indian Hill, and Falls Point roads. The Fog Mountain Road was started in May 1935 by a crew of 25 inexperienced Chicago men and boys fresh from the city. They cut the first trees from the road right of way, making them into wood. The road was completed to the saddle between Little Fog and Fog Mountain.



The boys from the camp also built the steel bridge across the Selway River at Meadow Creek.



Green Mtn. Camp

Enrollees based out of the Green Mountain tent camp assisted the Forest Service with construction of the Magruder Road to Darby, Montana.





French Creek Camp

French Creek—Company 2539, Camp F-106

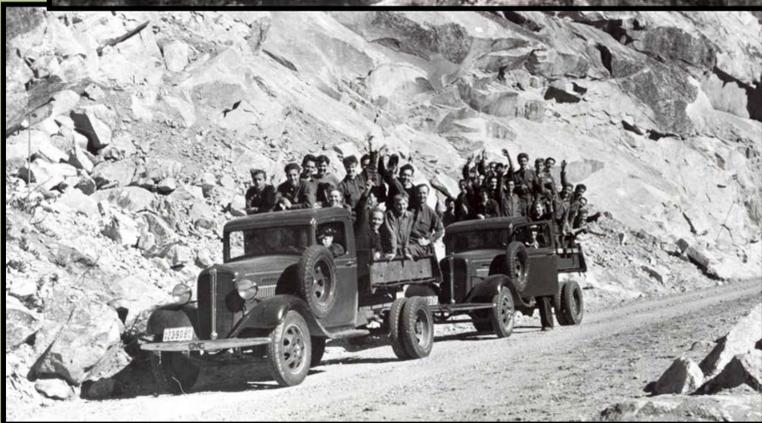


French Creek Camp in 1935.
K.D. Swan photo.



This camp was established in 1933 near the mouth of French Creek along the Salmon River. The CCC boys constructed roads along the Salmon River, including the main Salmon River Road from Riggins eastward. They also built the road which climbed steeply out of the canyon, extending southward through Burgdorf to join the McCall-Warren Road.

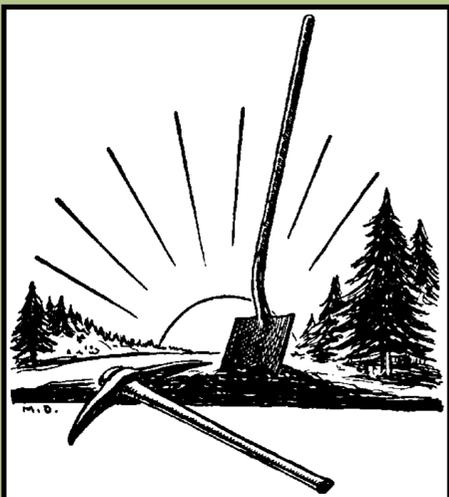
French Creek enrollees built the Manning Crevice Bridge across the Salmon River. The bridge was named as such to honor a CCC enrollee killed near the bridge. The bridge is 248 ft in length and built of creosoted timber with concrete abutments.



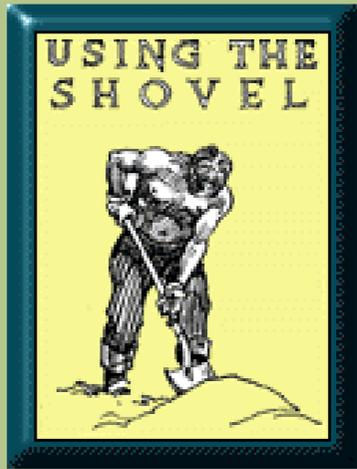
Manning Crevice Bridge

Camp Pollock

Camp Pollock—Company 1293, Camp F-107



This camp was established approximately 2 miles south of Riggins along the North & South Highway. Work projects performed by the CCC enrollees at this camp included building roads along the Salmon River as well as Squaw Creek and Bean Creek Roads to the Snake River. Workers also constructed pack trails for the Forest Service. The enrollees making up this camp came from New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. The camp was vacated as of June 30, 1941.

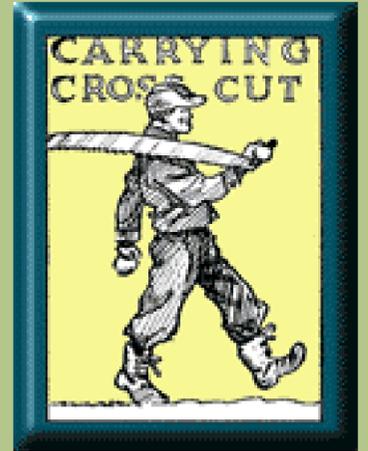


Trapper Creek Camp

This was a 35 man spike camp located at Trapper Creek, 12 miles southeast of Camp Red River.

Slim's Camp

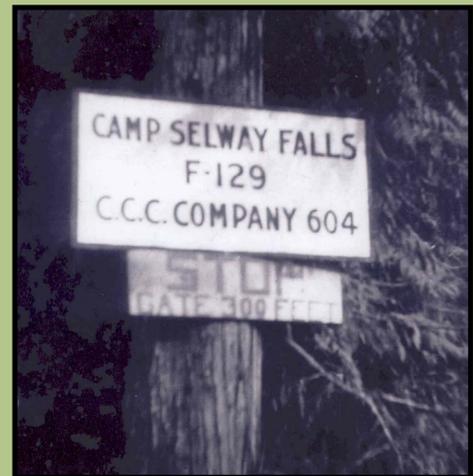
In 1935 Slim's Camp was established as a spike camp along Meadow Creek, a tributary of the Selway River. It served as a base of operation for the construction of Indian Hill and Falls Point Roads.



Camp Selway Falls

Camp Selway Falls—Company 604, Camp F-129

This spike camp was likely located at what is known today as the Selway Falls Campground adjacent to Meadow Creek, a tributary of the Selway River.



BOXING CHAMPIONS READY FOR BATTLE

Zone Title Holders in CCC Are Here to Contend For District Titles and Enter Monday Show.

CCC boxing champions selected from the four zones in the Lewiston district, have stirred the interest of some 3,500 enrollees in the area as well as the zeal of additional thousands of supporters and they will go through rugged paces in the district tournament race preceding the show at Recreation park Monday night under the auspices of the Lewiston post of the American Legion. Champions in some divisions have not been selected from several zones because of the lack of available material, the shortage appearing in the lighter weights.

Zone athletic officers have reported the following boxing champions to Lieut. J. H. Hughes, district athletic officer, all of them being in the running for district titles and for the honor of meeting Washington State college stars at Recreation park Monday night.

Flyweight.
Zone 1, Koznatz, Co. 1654, Washington Cabin.

Bantamweight.
Zone 4, Berry, Co. 931, Tucanon.

Featherweight.
Zone 1, Seaman, Co. 1654, Washington Cabin.
Zone 2, Teal, Co. 1503, Moscow.
Zone 4, Smith D. H. D., Lewiston, or A Villa, Co. 1223, Walla Walla.

Lightweight.
Zone 1, Wagner, Co. 1654, Washington Cabin.
Zone 2, O'Connor, Co. 570, Elk Basin.
Zone 4, R. Gillawee, Co. 1223, Walla Walla.

Welterweight.
Zone 1, Coyle, Co. 606, Schofield.
Zone 2, Lord, Co. 1503, Moscow.
Zone 3, Jasper, Co. 604, Selway Falls.

Middleweight.
Zone 4, Halez, D. H. D., Lewiston.

Light Heavyweight.
Zone 1, Kosek, Co. 1645, Reed's Ranch.
Zone 2, Evans, Co. 570, Elk Basin.
Zone 4, Gillis, Co. 931, Tucanon.

Heavyweight.
Zone 2, Bickle of Co. 1503, Moscow, or Wagner of Co. 2914, Pullman.
Zone 4, Nourse, D. H. D., Lewiston.

This August 31, 1935 Lewiston Morning Tribune article discusses CCC boxing championships. An enrollee from the Selway Falls Camp was a welterweight in the running for a title in the Lewiston District.

Slate Creek Camp

Slate Creek—Company 1224, Camp F-115

The Slate Creek camp had at least seven structures. Del Cox was superintendent here when this camp closed in 1936-37. Mr. Cox was also superintendent at Camp O'Hara on the Selway River.



NEW CCC COMPANIES WILL REPLACE VETS

Eight Units Coming From East Be Composed of Raw Recruits—Occupy Winter Camps in Lewiston Region.

Eight newly-enrolled seventh corps area CCC companies will arrive in the Lewiston district between October 10 and October 20 to rehabilitate Camps North Fork, O'Hara, Brown's Creek, Bungalow, Dent, Ahsahka, Big Meadow Creek and Slate Creek, it was announced yesterday by Major William S. Barrett, acting district commander, following receipt of orders from ninth area headquarters, San Francisco. The companies are all new ones composed mostly of recruits with new officers.

Until the arrival of the new companies, small depot detachments have been ordered to remain at all camps except Bungalow and Slate Creek for the purpose of putting buildings in shape for re-occupancy and procuring winter fuel supplies.

Two Camps Disbanded

Orders were received yesterday from ninth corps area headquarters to disband Camps Elk Basin and Boehl's Cabin and to transfer the junior enrollees in the two camps to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, for disposition as casuals. The troop train will leave Elk River at 7:30 a. m. October 7 and arrive at Fort Sheridan at 11 a. m. October 9.

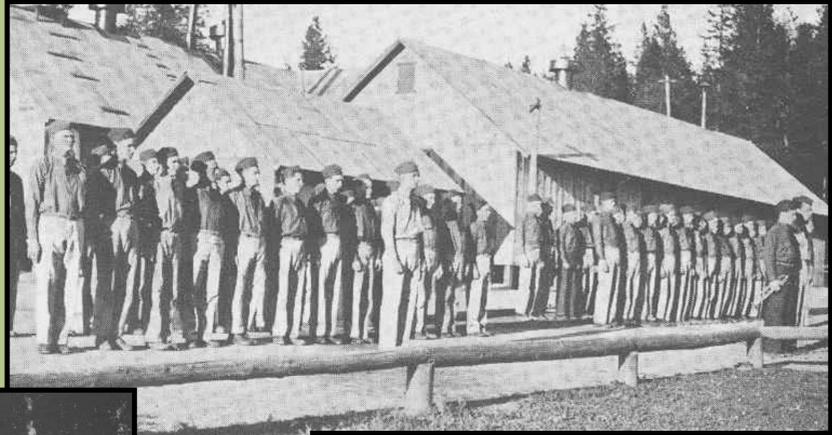
All officers accompanying the troop train will also be reassigned at Fort Sheridan with the exception of Lieut. Carl F. Janson, who has been ordered to return to Lewiston headquarters.

Lewiston Morning Tribune
October 4, 1936



Red River Camp

Red River—Company 3275 (1938) & 570, Camp F-192



IDAHO IS GETTING LOT OF NEW CAMPS FOR CCC

Idaho's Lewiston district is getting 15 CCC camps. This covers a wide area of the state. Camps have been discontinued at Red River, Upper Beaver, Elk Basin, Boehl's Cabin and Black Bear, all of them summer camps. They will be replaced by camps at Bungalow, Ahsahka, Big Meadow, Pollock and Slate Creek, and will operate for the next six months.

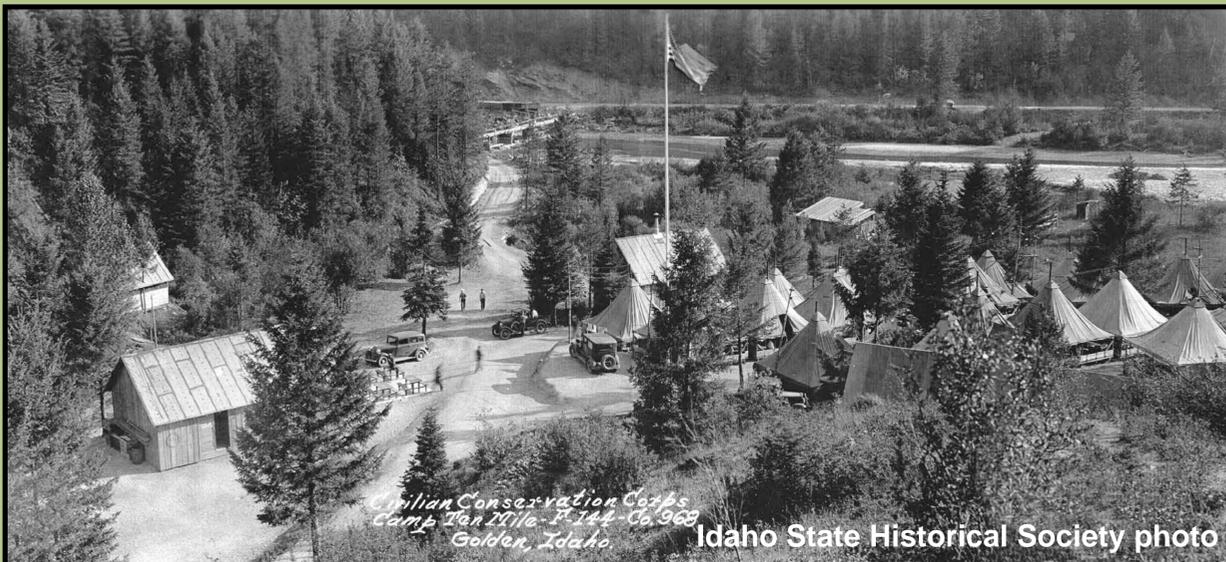
Newspaper article from the Valley Record, 10/01/1936.

This camp was established at the mouth of French Gulch along Red River in May, 1936. The CCC boys from the camp worked on surfacing the Elk City-Red River road and construction of the Big Mallard Road.

Most of the CCC camps published a company newspaper. For this camp it was called the *Co. 570 Times* and was published semi-monthly. The Red River Camp was vacated by October 31, 1940.

Camp Ten Mile

Camp Ten Mile—Company 968, Camp F-144



This camp was located near the mouth of Santiam Creek along the South Fork of the Clearwater River. The camp, in existence in 1934, was also known as Camp Golden and Santiam Camp. The men from this camp constructed the 27 mile long Sourdough/Santiam Road to Sourdough Peak Lookout.



Camp O'Hara

Camp O'Hara—Company 1624 (1936) & 5704 (1937)—Camp F-190

and Fenn Ranger Station



Camp O'Hara along the Selway River, circa late 1930s.



Shown in photograph: FIRST ROW: William F. Glover, Myrtle S. Barnhart, Robert E. Gerlach, Howard L. Parnell, Tom F. Pritchard, Henry M. Taylor, Durward E. McCullum, Walter J. Cheney, Delbert B. Crane, Harold E. Archibald, Cecil F. Mead, SECOND ROW: Bernard J. Hutzen, Harold E. Goodman, Gerald H. Cantrell, Ernest E. Campbell, Roy E. Stilwell, William G. Young, Royal W. Krantz, Wayne J. Barrethine, George U. Vaughn, Louis J. Wells, Raymond Swatsenberg, David L. Harper, THIRD ROW: John H. Yador, Thomas J. Martin, Glen W. Loveland, William E. Green, Earl A. Harvey, Wilbur H. Huffman, Delbert Oiest, John W. Sparlock, John R. Montgomery, Marvin T. Berker, William G. Blanton, Elbert S. Petty.

History . . .

The nucleus of Co. 5704 CCC, was formed at Ashdown, Arkansas, on October of 1936, when 55 enrollees from the 746th company were assigned to the new organization. On October 6th they left for Camp Pike, near Little Rock, where Lt. Geo. O. Shoemaker, Jr., assumed command. By October 18th a total of 148 enrollees entrained for Lewiston, Idaho, headquarters of the old Lewiston District. Upon arriving there October 17th they were sent to Camp O'Hara, located on the beautiful Selway river, just 103 miles east of Lewiston in the Nezperce National Forest, with Lowell, Idaho, as its post office address. The enrollees and officers found the camp site and climate ideal and were soon

comfortably housed in excellent buildings just vacated by a Sixth Corps company. Improvement in all activities has progressed to a high state of perfection during the nearly four years since the project has consisted in the construction of Fenn Ranger Station, roads and maintenance, telephone lines, lookout towers, bridges, tree planting and fire fighting. Much praise is due the enrollees, officers and technical personnel in the splendid way the company has carried on its work, recreational and educational activities. As of July 1, 1939, the Lewiston District was disbanded and Co. 5704 was adopted by the Fort George Wright District, under which command it is now serving.

Camp O'Hara Civilian Conservation Corp enrollees, 1940.



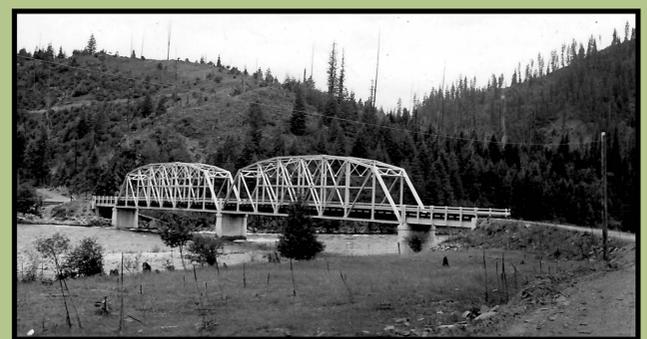
One of the most significant work projects the CCC enrollees undertook on the Nez Perce National Forest is the Fenn Ranger Station. The corpsmen constructing the buildings were stationed at O'Hara Camp, just a short jaunt from Fenn and came to northern Idaho mostly from Illinois and Arkansas.



Office building at Goddard Bar Ranger Station (later renamed Fenn Ranger Station), circa late 1930s.

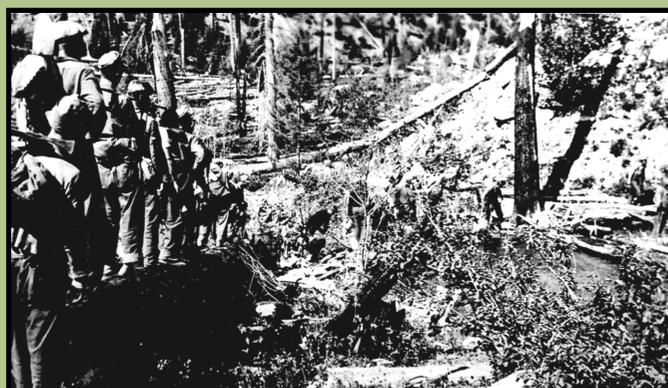


Fenn Ranger Station has changed little since its construction from 1936 - 1940 by a generation of young American men who served their country in an exceptional way. Today the station continues to be used as an active Forest Service facility occupied by the Moose Creek Ranger District and in recognition of its historical qualities is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Swiftwater Bridge across the lower Selway River.

The boys from the O'Hara camp also built the steel bridge across the Selway River at Swiftwater Creek.



CCC men headed to the Three Links fire in the Selway Primitive Area.

"We had one fire back in the Primitive Area on the Selway. We rode the truck up to Selway Falls and had to hike 15 or 20 miles into the fire. It came a rainstorm and by the time we got to the fire it was out. We couldn't even find enough dry wood to make coffee, so we headed back out to the truck. That night we went roller-skating in Kooskia." Gus Watts—O'Hara CCC Camp enrollee, 1938.