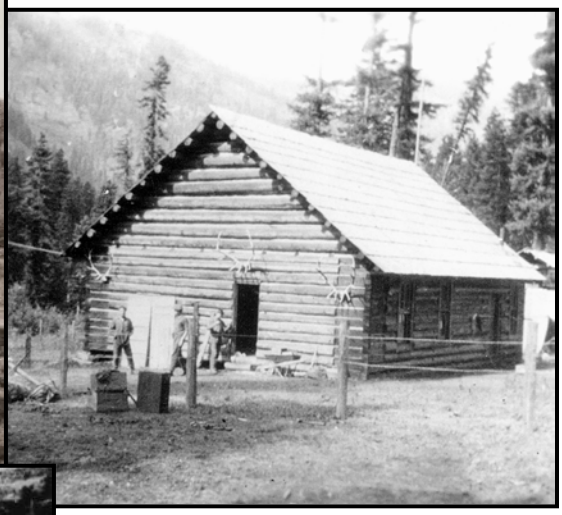
Administrative Sites

One of the first assignments given to the rangers was to select desirable administrative sites. The early 1900's were those years when the U.S. Government was in the business of giving land away. The Forest Service was forced into a race with homesteaders and miners to see who could get the best land first. Rangers were instructed to post notices at possible site locations, survey and map the area, and complete a detailed report.

Slate Creek Ranger Station. This cabin was originally located several miles up Slate Creek and later moved to the current ranger station site along the Salmon River. George V. Ring photograph.

Ranger Stations were to be reasonably accessible to the forests and to settlements, to have ample horse feed, a good water supply and be situated on flat land or land with a gentle slope.

Extensive land classification crew at French Gulch Ranger Station, 1915.
George V. Ring photograph.



Upper left: Red River Ranger Station, 1935.
USFS photograph.
Right: Moose Creek Ranger Station, 1926.
Van Emerson photograph.
Lower left: Castle Creek Ranger Station, nd.
George V. Ring photograph.

Since Station in this sense so often means "home" and could be written very appropriately "Ranger's Home", it is but right that an effort has been made to make them as comfortable and as near up to the average timbered farm home as the funds and the hands of the Forest Service would permit, and we are certainly pleased to see the way the men have tried to make the Ranger homes habitable and homelike.

---George V. Ring

Management of the Moose Creek Ranger Station, in the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, has changed little since its establishment in 1921. All of the structures are maintained to preserve their historic character while work crews use hand tools and mule drawn equipment to maintain the station and its airstrip.

Applying fertilizer to the Moose Creek Ranger Station airfield with mule drawn equipment.
Roger Inghram photograph.