

RM-69
#85

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Inermountain
Region

Sawtooth
National
Forest



History of the Minidoka National Forest



Old road and campground signs on old Minidoka National Forest

Compiled 1941-42

RM-69 Forest Service / SSB
Minidoka National Forest
5

fuel wood under free use. Since the demand for timber was so considerably reduced, very few sawmills operated on National Forest timber during that period.

The demand for timber increased somewhat during the 1930's. For the period 1930 to 1935 an average of 914 M bd. ft. of timber were sold each year. Although the number of free use permits remained about the same as previously, the volume of timber taken under free use permit approximately doubled, due very likely to economic conditions causing many families to use wood for fuel in place of coal.

During the period 1920 to 1934, appropriations for improvement purposes continued to be quite small. Some progress in the construction of needed improvements was made, however. The Big Cedar Road and Indian Springs Road were constructed in 1923 thus furnishing needed access roads to the forest. Various improvements were made on existing ranger station buildings and in 1929 a five-room frame dwelling was constructed at the Shoshone Ranger Station. A few needed water developments were constructed each year but the improvement program was not proceeding as fast as could be desired.

Then in 1933, President Roosevelt set up the Civilian Conservation Corps. No CCC camp was obtained for the Minidoka National Forest during 1933, but considerable amounts of Emergency Construction, Devnira and Imprira funds were made available in 1933, 1934, and 1935. (According to Merlin Stock, Burley District Ranger from 19-19, "When I returned from Germany on July 3, 1933 my folks were at Bosteder. Soon after this my brother and I rode horses over to Porcupine. We rode through the heads of Telephone Can, Matindale Fork, and the Third Fork of Rock Cr. I took some pictures of us with the camp in the background, but I can't locate them now. I saw them a few months ago. On the 24th of July some of the boys from the camp were at the celebration in Oakley. They were going to try to ride in the rodeo but didn't.") Then in May of 1934 a camp was set up at Porcupine Springs near the heads of Goose Creek and Rock Creek on the Cassia Division. This camp began improvement work on the Oakley-Rogerson Road, constructed several buildings at Bosteder and Shoshone ranger stations and initiated work on several public campgrounds. The Porcupine Camp located twelve miles south of Hansen was opened and since that time either the Rock Creek or the Porcupine (later called Shoshone) camp was occupied continuously until August 1941. (Also according to Mr. Stock, "They may have worked on the road to Rogerson west of the camp. East of Porcupine the Oakley-Rogerson road went about where the present road goes over Monument. They built the one that goes from Porcupine, through the heads of Rock Cr., to the head of Trapper, near the junction of the Cotton Ridge road. The road was built using horses, they may have had a wheel-type tractor on the job, but with no blades. They did not come until about 3 or 4 years later. This took a few years.

I do not believe they built any buildings at Shoshone. There was a residence and a barn there in 1929. I helped repaint them that year. The barn was moved to the

present Rock Cr. Guard Station location before 1944, and the dwelling was moved to Albion in 1947.')

Blaine Betenson became supervisor in January of 1935 and served in the capacity until November 30, 1936. Mr. Betenson came to the Minidoka from the Wasatch N.F. where he was Assistant Supervisor.

In July of 1935 the first ERA men were assigned to the Minidoka National Forest. Supervisor Betenson realized that much important work could be done with ERA labor and aggressively pushed such projects with the result that as high as 200 men were assigned at one time during 1935 and 1936. ERA funds rapidly dwindled--to 100 men in 1937, 60 in 1938, 20 to 40 in 1939, from none to 20 in 1940, and terminated entirely in 1941. However during this period much important improvement work was accomplished. A total of over \$340,000.00 CCC funds, \$210,000.00 ERA funds, and \$90,000.00 Nira funds was spent. (According to Mr. Stock, "The road up Big Cedar, the one that is used now, was put in by an E.R.A. crew in 1934, at least they called it an E.R.A. crew. My dad was the ranger and I remember how disgusted he was with the 'engineer' who set centerline stakes with an abney level, because the grade was so uneven with pitches that they were too steep. This work was also done with horses. During the last phases they got a farm tractor but it was of little help. About the middle of June, Supervisor S.S. Stewart gave me 10 gal. of gasoline to take some supplies to the camp in my Model T. I believe the camp was at Basin Patch. I had to be helped up some of the grades.")

Improvements constructed with CCC, ERA or Nira funds include the following:

- Approximately 150 range water developments were constructed or rebuilt.
- Approximately fifty miles of road constructed or reconstructed.
- Practically all existing campground and picnic area facilities now existing on the forest were built by CCC and ERA labor and funds.

19-019 Forest Station / 2024
19

RM-069
#94
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RM-069
#92

1
USDA Forest Service
KETCHUM RANGER DISTRICT
Oral History Project 1991-1992
Shirley Hackins, Researcher

THE HISTORY OF THE FOREST SERVICE ROLE IN THE SHAPING AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUN VALLEY SKI AREA AND THE COMMUNITY

CONTENTS OF THE PROJECT

- 12 Oral History Interviews
on 24 tapes, with indexes
- 109 Photographs
- 1 Manuscript
- 4 Ephemera
- 10 Related Materials

USDA FOREST SERVICE
SUN VALLEY

Forest Service Topic List

PROJECT FOCUS:

The history of the Forest Service and its role in the development of the Sun Valley ski area and the local communities.

General History

Mining/Claims
Ranching/Grazing
Timber/Logging
Roads/Trails/Bridges
Water Supply/Water Rights
Campgrounds/Buildings
Fire Control/Lookouts
Leases/Permits/Special Uses
Public Lands/Access
Depression/CCC
World War II/Projects
Resources/Conservation
Multiple Use/Recreation
Ranger Stations/Rangers
Weather Services
Communication/Telephone Lines

Development of Ski Areas

Use Permits
Ski Runs/Design
Logging/Clearing Trails
Ski Lifts/Construction
Dollar Mountain
Elkhorn
Roud Mountain
Proctor Mountain
Bald Mountain
Cabins/Proctor, Dollar, Trail
Creek, Lookout, Elkhorn
Roundhouse Restaurant/Construction
Lookout Restaurant/Construction
Bald Mountain/Fire Lookout
Snow Tanks/Transportation
Sno-Cats/Grooming
Safety/Avalanche Control

#95
RM-069
#94
Forest Service hosts
Greenhorn

use

USDA Forest Service
Ketchikan Ranger District
Oral History Project 1991-1992
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page 2

RELATED MATERIALS (10)

- RM- The American Way Magazine December 1973 *Presidents - Misc Mag Box 3*
"Alf Engen: Portrait of a Professional" (p. 20-23)
Donor: Alf Engen
- RM- Sports Guide Magazine March 1991 *Box*
"Profile of Alf Engen" (p. 14-15) *Filed w/ Presidents - Misc Mag #3*
Donor: Alf Engen
- RM- Scenic Trails Magazine: National Forests, National Parks *Last*
October 1937 *Filed in Forest Service Project Folder. Off. File*
Donor: RMD *Drawer.*
- RM- Centennial Papers: National Forests (1891-1991) Celebrate
100 Years of Conservation *Filed in the Forest Service Project*
- Celebrate National Forests 1891-1991 (brochure)
 - Beginnings: Newsletter for the 1991 National Forest System Centennial (4 pages)
 - Significance of the 1891 Forest Reserve Act: The Beginning of Natural Resource Conservation in America (4 pages)
 - The National Forests: Centennial Mini-Histories, January 1991
Part One: 1864-1891 (19 pages)
Part Two:
 - Sawtooth Centennial Briefs
 - A Few Good Men: The First Forest Rangers (4 pages)
 - A History of Livestock Grazing on the Sawtooth National Forest (2 Pages)
 - Roosevelt's Tree Army: The CCC's on the Sawtooth National Forest, 1933-1941 (2 pages)
 - Key Dates in Sawtooth National Forest History (1 page)
 - Still Good Rules to Live By: Gifford Pinchot (1 page)
 - Forest Service Antique China order form (1 page)
 - Sawtooth National Forest: 1991 Visitor Information (5 pages)
Donor: Art Selin (USFS)
- RM- Article: The Death of Gobo Fango (9 pages)
- RM- Newspaper clippings: (3)
- Ex. # 5 Life in Magic Valley/Idaho Was His Downfall (1 page) 5-3-58 Times News
 - Eighty Something: Hunter Nelson (1 page) 1991
 - Ex. # 4 Snow Survey and Workers Prove Worth (2 pages) 2-9-50 Times News
Donor: Hunter Nelson
- RM- Newspaper clippings: (2)
- Ex. # 3 Forest Service Drops Lookout on Baldy (1 page) Mountain Express 6-30-93
 - Ambassadors of Skiing and Social Life: Ski Instructors Make Big Contributions (pages) Mountain Express 3-27-91
- Donor: RMD

The Sun Valley Resort is located on private, National Forest System, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Domain lands. The private land includes the historic Brass Ranch (approximately 4,300 acres) and about 170 acres at the base of Bald Mountain at River Run and Warm Springs. The Forest System and BLM Public Domain Lands are located on Bald Mountain and make up approximately 90% of the Bald Mountain Ski Area. The public land is 3,326 acres in size, and is administered entirely by the U.S. Forest Service by Memorandum of Agreement with the BLM and special use permit with Sun Valley Company.

[[PHOTO OF BALD MOUNTAIN SKI AREA and sun valley]]

*Compiled By
Esther Mayes
Sawtooth National Forest*

In 1938-39, as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a rubble masonry, two-storey fire lookout to replace the existing lookout on Bald Mountain. The first lookout was built in 1921. It was an 8 ft cabin on stilts and had a telephone hookup. The CCC assisted the Forest Service with road and trail construction to transport building and other supplies for the construction of the new lookout. The CCC also installed telephone lines and constructed ditches to help control erosion on Bald Mountain. Parts of this trail were built on top of old skid trails that were used to harvest timber on Bald Mountain in the late 1890s. This trail is now a recreational hiking and mountain biking trail.