

To obtain further information on the area, you might have, please feel free to contact:

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This has been a project in Environmental Interpretive Methods, FWR 387,  
 Wildland Recreation Management Program, College of Forestry, Wildlife and  
 Range Sciences, University of Idaho.

## Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area

# Big Meadow Creek



## Welcome

Welcome to Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area. Owned by the University of Idaho and operated by the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Science, Big Meadow Creek is a pleasant place to picnic, hike, relax, and enjoy nature.

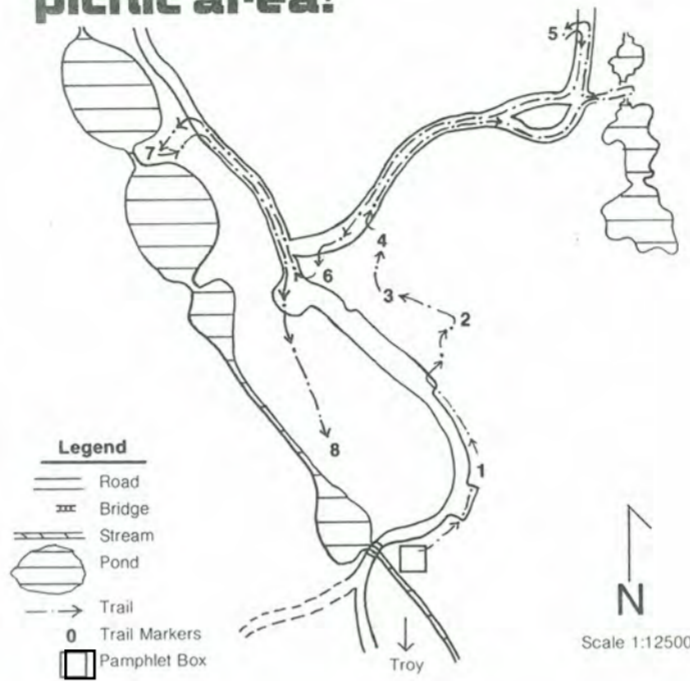
A fascinating story is hidden here, so take some time to get acquainted. Use the map below to help locate some of the interesting historic points around the meadow. These points of interest are marked with square CCC markers, but there is no distinct trail connecting them so you will have to read the map and the landscape to find them.

The trail is designed for an hour to an hour and a half walk, but there is much more to find and see at the conclusion of the walk if you are intrigued.

You may have already spotted the first marker, which is on the right of the road as you head into the meadow.

Remember, to find subsequent stops the map on the facing page will be very helpful.

## More than just a picnic area!



## CCC 1

The meadow sure is peaceful and quiet, isn't it? Can you imagine a town of 200 people here? It may be hard to believe, but in 1934 that many men did live here, men of the Civilian Conservation Corps. They were here to cut the burned snags, results of a 1931 fire, and to replant the area with trees.

The picture above depicts what the camp looked like then, viewing it in a north-westerly direction as you are now. All the trees shown in the photograph were dead. There is quite a difference now isn't there? As you walk to the second stop, try to imagine all the work it took to build the camp and take it apart in order to leave the meadow looking as natural as possible.

## CCC 2

Imagine taking a shower on this slab of concrete. The men of CCC camp S-260 not only showered but also washed their clothes here. The only water heaters for camp were in this building.

This concrete was too thick for the men to break it up conveniently when the camp was dissolved in 1937 so they left it to the elements. It's not too noticeable is it? Of course, many centuries will pass before all evidence is obliterated.

The next stop is to the northwest along the bench you are now standing on:

## CCC 3

You are now standing on the front step of the infirmary. Here is where the men came for medical attention when they were ill. The most common illness of the time was whooping cough. Have any of you ever had whooping cough?

The picture at right shows the doctor and his two helpers standing in approximately the same place you are now.

Up the bank to the north you will find stop 4, a small, but very important part of the camp.

## CCC 4

This broken concrete was once the base for electric generators. The camp got all its electricity from here. The men were able to break up this concrete to help nature conceal their work.

The path under your feet is the remains of one of the camp's old roads. These roads were built to take the men up on the mountain to work.

Now let us venture up another of these old roads, to our fifth stop. A place situated with considerable insight.

Referring back to the map will be helpful in locating this stop since it is situated a little out of the way.

## CCC 5

This abandoned shack was used to store explosives. Can you see the importance of placing it here? If you thought of safety factors you were right. Using the hillside as a back wall would direct any possible explosion away from camp.

Why they did not dismantle this building as they did the others is not known. Do you have any ideas?

As you move on to stop 6, remember there were only dead trees around when the camp was flourishing.



## CCC 6

You're hungry! Right here on this concrete, cooks prepared meals for the 200 men of CCC camp S-260. Even though they were depression years, the men ate well.

The mess hall was the largest building in camp and provided the setting for classrooms as well as three meals a day.

Stop 7 will take you up the road to something a little different. As you proceed you can still see a few burnt stumps up to your right.



## CCC 7

Ponds were a major contribution of CCC boys across the nation. This one was built to help keep the creek in control. Notice the water flow control near the dam is still doing its job. Flood control was an important part of the job the men were faced with in restoring this area.

As you walk back to the meadow to the next stop imagine coming back to camp from a hard day's work digging out stumps.

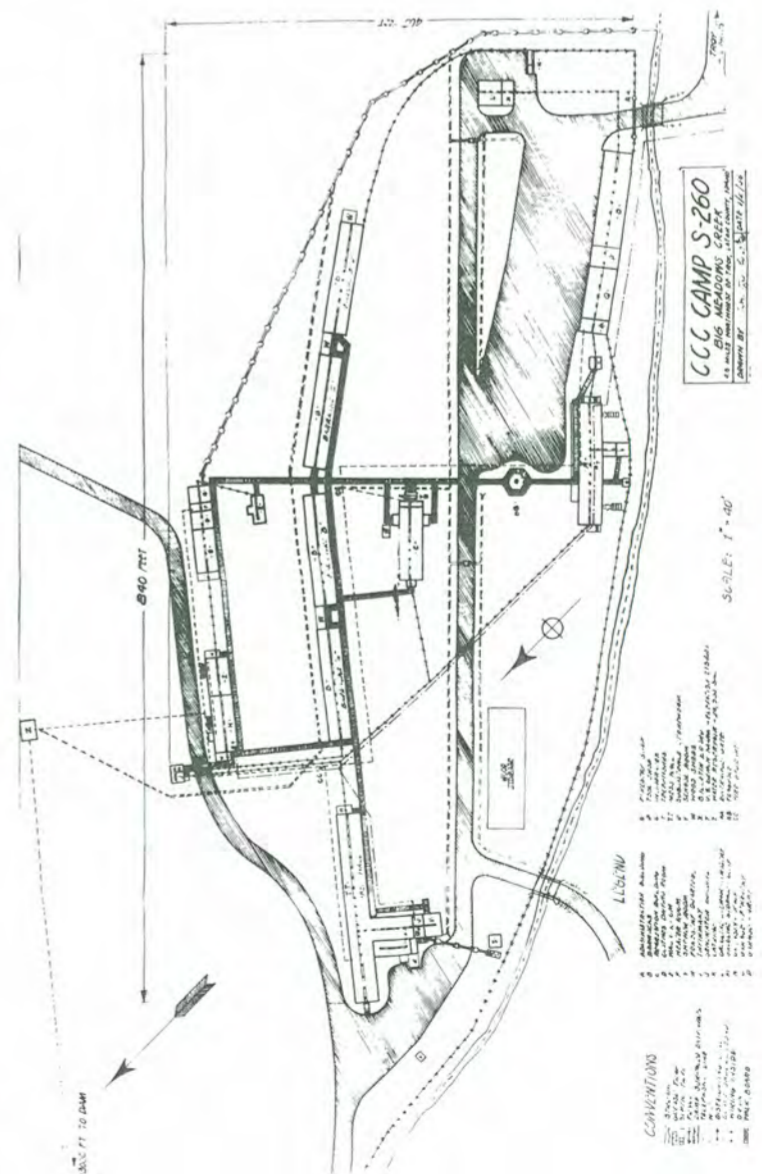
The picture on the front cover is the camp as the men saw it as they returned from cutting snags and planting trees.

## CCC 8

This fireplace was part of the administration building. The creek has eroded the bank away so that if the building were still here, part of it would be in the water. Here was where the men drew their pay of \$30 a month.

Behind you was the volleyball court, and the gravelly hump in the middle of the meadow is the main road into camp in those days.

And this is the end of the guided walk. If you would like to look for more remains of the camp, the map on the back shows the area as it was in 1936.





## Location of Complete Research:

Author & Title: *John H. Fowler:*  
*BIG MEADOW CREEK RECREATION AREA*

University of Idaho Library:  
Call Number- *GV191.42.I2A84*

College of Natural Resources:  
Department- *Recreation and Tourism*

Other Sources: *This pamphlet is tucked inside of the cover of a thesis by James Jackson Atkins, titled "RECREATION USE AND USER PREFERENCES, AT BIG MEADOW CREEK RECREATION AREA, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXPERIMENTAL FOREST*