

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900A). Type all entries.

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Public Works of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico.

B. Associated Historic Contexts

The Depression Era, Civilian Conservation Corps efforts on public lands within the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico, 1933 - 1942

C. Form Prepared By

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

Wan J. Dubois 10/28/93
 Signature of certifying official Date

USDA - Forest Service Historic Preservation Officer

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Reth Bolera 12/23/93
 Signature of the Keeper of the National Register Date

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Name of Historic Context Depression Era, Civilian Conservation Corps efforts on Public Land within the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico 1933 - 1942

The 1930s became known as the Great Depression. During this period, unemployment and dislocation were common. All Americans were affected by social, political, and economic impacts brought about by the declining economy. During the same period, the natural resources of the United States were also on the verge of disaster. The poor condition of the resources was not caused by the Depression, but an effort to help restore them did come out of work relief efforts put forth as a cure for the strained economic times.

The Federal government began to take steps toward alleviating the lowering economic conditions and the rising unemployment. Small steps were first undertaken by the Hoover administration, but failed to relieve the country. Franklin Roosevelt came into office in 1933 and immediately introduced to Congress bills for "The Relief of Unemployment through the Performance of Useful Public Work and for Other Purposes" (Executive Order 6106), commonly known as the "New Deal".

Plans within the New Deal authorized the President to create organizations which would aid in the development of the Nation's forests and parks through such projects as reforestation, prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and facilities construction. These projects were formed to promote work for many of the unemployed, and to provide them with leadership and vocational training.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC as it is most commonly referred to, was established as part of Roosevelt's plan to combat the Depression. In a message to Congress on March 21, 1933, Roosevelt stated:

I have proposed to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in simple work, confining itself to forestry, preservation of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects. . . Control of such work can be carried on by the executing machinery of the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, War, and the Interior.

Executive Order 6106 took effect in April 1933, ten days after President Roosevelt's address to Congress.

The organization established was technically called "Emergency Conservation Work". The phrase Roosevelt used in his speech to Congress, however, The Civilian Conservation Corps, was more frequently used and is the name by which the organization is referred to today.

The CCC received ten million dollars from the national treasury, and was operated under the direction of Robert Fechner, along with an advisory council. The various Departments specified by Roosevelt played important roles. The selection of individuals for enrollment was the responsibility of the Department of Labor. The War Department was responsible for physical conditioning, transportation, camp construction, administration, and supplies. The Department of Agriculture was responsible for on-the-ground planning and execution of work projects on the national forests in the continental U.S., Puerto Rico, and Alaska. The Department of the Interior had a similar responsibility for the lands under its jurisdiction and for the CCC's Native American enrollees.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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Public Works of the CCC, Lincoln National Forest
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The CCC employed men between the ages of 18 and 25 for six month periods. Each man received \$35 a month, \$25 of which was sent home to their families. The types of projects completed by the CCC include the following: timber protection, fire suppression, reforestation, and the construction of roads, trails, dams, tanks, fences, administrative buildings and structures, recreation buildings, structures and campground-picnic areas. Such projects helped in the conservation effort and improved the Forest Service recreational program. By the end of the first year, the CCC had employed 275,000 men across the nation.

The CCC and the Lincoln National Forest

At least 5 main CCC camps were established on the Lincoln National Forest. Enrollees at these camps were involved in a wide variety of projects within the Forest boundaries. Fire fighting, reforestation, protection of trees from insects, and the construction of dams, tanks, and seeps were some of the projects which the CCC were responsible for. The Forest's conservation program was bolstered by the CCC through water and timber conservation projects.

Prominent buildings and structures constructed by the CCC and currently on the National Register within Lincoln National Forest include Monjeau Lookout on the Smokey Bear Ranger District, and five buildings on the Mayhill Administration site on the Mayhill Ranger District. The large stone recreation shelter at Sitting Bull Falls in the Guadalupe District which is currently being nominated also serves prominence within the Forest. These buildings are typical of the CCC "rustic" style of architecture. They had simple plans and plain details, and were constructed of local materials so that they would fit well in the southwestern environment.

The CCC also helped to develop recreation opportunities on the forest. Roads and trails made the forest more accessible to visitors and campground and picnic area development made the forest more attractive to the public.

F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type CCC Campsites

II. Description

The Civilian Conservation Corps living facilities consisted of both main and side camps. Main camps generally housed 200 men, while side camps varied from 3 to 65 men. Three major types of camps were used by the CCC, those consisting of tents, rigid structures or portable structures. Tent camps consisted of tents as living quarters and wooden frame service buildings. These habitation areas could contain 25, 50, 100 or 200 men. Rigid camps generally contained a total of 11 wooden buildings. Portable camps came into prominent use in 1937. These facilities were typically comprised of 12 buildings that were made of a series of 6 foot pieces that bolted together and could be easily set up and knocked down for relocation. Rigid camps were the only CCC living quarters where foundations were sometimes present. Wooden floors were occasionally built for tents in tent camps. Facilities located within the CCC living areas included barracks, offices, tents and tents platforms, mess halls, kitchens, latrines, showers, infirmaries, educational buildings, recreation halls, pumphouses, garages, machine shops, blacksmith shops, barns, officer quarters, and dispensaries.

III. Significance

Rigid and Portable CCC campsites are significant under criteria C as they are examples of the utilitarian design building type of the Depression. Both types of CCC campsites have the potential to yield significant information on the location of CCC activities and events occurring during the Depression and may be nominated under criteria A as such. If CCC campsites appear to contain some artifact concentrations and depth, they may also be listed as significant under criteria D, for they would yield further information about the history of the CCC itself.

IV. Registration Requirements

To be qualified for the National Register, properties related to this property type must be in relatively undisturbed areas and exhibit some characteristics of the CCC presence in the area such as the simple building design, basic living conditions, or associated trash deposits. The site must fall into one of the above camp types, containing at least one feature leading to the determination of the camp type present. Such feature may include the following: in situ tent stakes, tent pads or depressed area, foundations, or structural outlines.

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Section number F Page 2

I. Name of Property Type CCC Constructed Recreation Areas

II. Description

During their presence on National Forest lands, the CCC constructed numerous recreation areas and facilities. Included in the facilities are: tent camps/campgrounds, drinking fountains, fire pits, community kitchens, picnic shelters, tables, restrooms, bathhouses, swimming pools, ponds and lakes, beach areas, paths, footbridges, trail shelters, trails, ski lodges, and warming huts. Known recreation facilities constructed by the CCC on the Lincoln National Forest include picnic areas, swimming holes, and paths. Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area located on the Guadalupe Ranger District of the forest, and picnic structures located at Cedar Creek on the Smokey Bear Ranger District fall within this category, representing several types of recreational features constructed by the CCC.

III. Significance

Recreational facilities constructed by the CCC have the potential to yield significant information on the location of the CCC within Lincoln National Forest and the types of activities they were involved in, thus, exhibiting significance under criteria A. These facilities may also be listed under criteria C, for many of the recreation facilities were constructed of wood and/or, stone exhibiting the workmanship of the men of the CCC along with the rustic building design identified with CCC.

IV. Registration Requirements

To be qualified for the National Register, properties related to this property type must exhibit some characteristics of the CCC in the facility features such as the workmanship or building/construction design, and show no significant modification or changes to the buildings or surroundings. CCC recreation buildings were typically built with a non-intrusive design in which the buildings were constructed of local materials and blended with the natural environment. This building design is indicative of the CCC, thus, giving such features integrity.

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I. Name of Property Type CCC Constructed Soil Erosion Control Structures

II. Description

Part of the CCC's goal was to aid the nation in the protection of its resources. One way in which the CCC aided in that protection was by building structures to stop or prevent soil erosion. Such structures included in this property type are culverts, waterbars, catchment tanks, stone walls and gabions.

III. Significance

Soil erosion control structures constructed by the CCC have the potential to yield significant information on the location of the CCC within Lincoln National Forest and the types of activities they were involved in, thus, exhibiting significance under criteria A. The majority of these features may also be listed under criteria C, for they were constructed of local materials including wood, dirt and stone. These features represent the workmanship of the CCC and the non-intrusive building design implemented by its members. The building of these features marks a significant change in the Forest Service from protector and custodian to resource manager.

IV. Registration Requirements

To qualify for the National Register, properties related to this property type must be in relatively undisturbed areas and exhibit some characteristics of the CCC such as the construction, design or style of the erosion control features. The features must be relatively intact and if not currently functioning, exhibit some evidence of their original function.

G. Geographical Data

Within the boundaries of the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico.

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

This multiple property listing of sites consisting of public works of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Lincoln National Forest has been selected from the set of all sites known to relate to the CCC that have been identified on the forest to date.

Since the majority of the CCC camps were dismantled at the time of abandonment, few features will remain evident today. Recreation facilities and erosion control structures in many cases are still complete and in use at this time. Most sites covered by this nomination will be nominated under Criteria C and D. Associative and locational integrity are primary components of consideration along with distinctive architectural design.

The Depression era, formation of the CCC, and the public works they created are considered significant because they marked a change in Forest Service philosophy from conserving to managing resources. Also of significance is the vast assistance the Lincoln National Forest, and the Forest Service in general, received towards improving recreation facilities and protecting natural resources.

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Primary location of additional documentation:

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