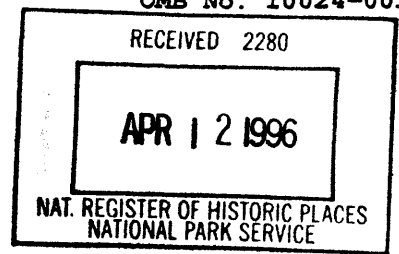


NRNPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter

other names/site number FS Site No. 09-06-04-179; Green Lake

2. Location

street & number STH32 and NFS 2308 N/A not for publication

city or town Mountain N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Oconto code 083 zip code 54149

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Evan D. DeBlois 4-1-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Federal Historic Preservation officer Forest Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/21/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State of Federal agency and bureau

Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter Oconto County, Wisconsin
 Name of Property County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____ _____ _____	Signature of the Keeper <u>Beth Deland</u> _____ _____ _____ _____	Date of Action <u>5/21/96</u> _____ _____ _____ _____
--	---	--

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____ 0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation</u> _____ _____ _____	<u>RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation</u> _____ _____ _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) <u>LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS</u> _____	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation <u>STONE</u> walls <u>Log</u> roof <u>Asphalt</u> other <u>Iron</u> <u>Stone</u>
---	--

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter
Name of Property

Oconto County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937 (1)

Significant Dates

1937 (1)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter
Name of Property

Oconto County, Wisconsin
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository:
USDA Forest Service, Rhinelander

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 <u>1/6</u> <u>3/8/6/0/7/0</u> <u>5/0/0/1/5/5/0</u>	3 <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
2 <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u>	4 <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant
organization private consultant date 3/7/94
street & number P.O. Box 258, 21-4th Street telephone 608-424-6315
city or town Belleville state Wisconsin zip code 53508

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter
Name of Property

Oconto County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name USDA Forest Service, Nicolet National Forest
street & number 68 South Stevens Street telephone 715-362-1300
city or town Rhineland state Wisconsin zip code 53501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter
Continuation Sheet Mountain, Oconto Co., WI

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7. Description

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter, known as the Green Lake Picnic Ground Shelter shortly after 1937 (USDA Forest Service 1937a; 1937b; Wolff 1993), sits along the southwest shore of Green Lake one mile north of the intersection of STH32 and National Forest Service Road 2308. Occupying a total of about three acres, the picnic ground is located two miles south of Mountain, Oconto County in the southeast quarter, southwest quarter, section 13, township 31 north, range 16 east. Placed in a National Forest Service picnic ground southeast of a parking lot, the shelter which includes bathhouse facilities, faces northeast towards a lawn, sandy beach, and Weber or Green lake. The building stands at the southwest edge of an opening surrounded by a relatively sparse, mixed hardwood and conifer forest. The property includes the shelter counted as one individually eligible building and its setting, part of the surrounding clearing and the beach. Erected in 1937 (Nicolet News 1985: 63: 7-11 [by William Wolff]; Wolff 1993; USDA National Forest Service 1937 [land records, 6/8/37]), the picnic shelter/bathhouse displays architectural elements associated with the Rustic Style. The shelter follows National Forest Service plan No. 50 dated July 9, 1935 (USDA National Forest Service 1935 [plans]).

Including a single level, the exterior of the rectangular building measures 32.5 feet northwest-southeast by 20.5 feet northeast-southwest. The building includes the picnic shelter in the northwest three-fourths and the bathhouse in the southeast quarter. The horizontal log building stands on a concrete footing finished with fieldstone curbing along the exterior. A gently sloped, gable roof completed with sheathing and asphalt shingles covers the shelter. The rounded logs are milled, finished smooth, and stained brown. The ends of the logs are cut flush at the corners and fit by tongue and groove notching into a vertical post. The logs are tightly fit together and are not chinked. The walls include an opening centrally located on both the front and rear elevations. The sides of these openings slant inward near the eaves. Squarish window-like openings closed with horizontal louvers pierce both the front and rear elevations adjacent to the southeast side elevation, the bathhouse portion of the building. A massive, rubble stone, exposed end chimney rises along the center of the northwest elevation and through the roof. Rafters and purlins are exposed. Wrought iron letters: "U S" are placed along the horizontal center of the chimney. Three, vertical board doors enter into the two end rooms and the center storage area of bathhouse along the southeast side elevation. Wrought iron strap hinges ornamented with tree silhouettes and latches secure the doors. Flagstones are placed along the front or northeast elevation of the shelter and at each of the three doors along the southeast side elevation.

The interior walls and ceiling of the shelter portion are unfinished and the floor of both portions is concrete. Exposed timbers support the roof in each of the two sections. The interior of the picnic shelter includes a rubble stone fireplace with roughly shaped wood mantle centered on the southwest wall. A sign board perhaps replacing an earlier one with timber surrounds occupies the center of the opposite wall. Three half timber benches resting on rubble stone supports

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are placed within the picnic shelter. One occurs along the dividing wall between the picnic shelter and the bathhouse. The other two are located along the northwest side elevation on either side of the fireplace and along the adjacent walls. The bathhouse portion of the shelter includes two small changing rooms at either end of the northeast elevation and a center storage room. Each changing room includes a wood plank seat along one wall and horizontal boards finish the walls.

Elements of the Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter common to the Rustic Style include the log and rubble stone materials, the massive chimney, broad roof, wide eaves, exposed purlins, rafters and roof supports, roughly fashioned doors, broad interior stone fireplace, log bench and sign board, and use of wrought iron hardware and decorative trim (Draeger 1986 [1993]).

The building has undergone little alteration. Asphalt replaces wood shingle roofing. One of the three log benches replicates an original bench. The wrought iron tree once placed between the letters "U S" along the chimney is gone (Wolff 1993). The setting within the picnic ground has undergone some modification. A recently constructed boat launch is not in the vicinity of the shelter. The parking lot and comfort station to the northwest of the shelter are recent additions. Although visible from the shelter, they are sufficiently well removed to be placed outside the property boundaries. Also of recent origin, the picnic tables, associated pedestal-type steel grills, and a pump are relatively unobtrusive. The picnic tables are moveable, and the pump lies just outside the property boundary. Within the boundary are the U-shaped, small sandy beach whose edges are lined with railroad ties, a small, recent bench, and a sign. The immediate vicinity of the shelter excludes most of the recent intrusions except for the bench and sign. The CCC prepared the beach when building the shelter in 1937 (Wolff 1993). The railroad ties represent an addition or replacement of log or stone barriers. Overall, the Green Lake Picnic Ground Shelter and its immediately adjacent setting retain high physical integrity. The shelter itself has undergone minor alterations, and the open surroundings and vista over the lake remain. Changed elements of the setting are unobtrusive and easily removed.

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8. Significance

Statement of Significance

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter gains significance under National Register criterion A in the area of government and under criterion C in the area of architecture. The Weber Lake Shelter was one of the early products of a new federal policy implemented in 1935 to increase the recreational usage within the national forests. In response to the natural, financial, and social crises of the Depression Era, the federal government implemented several national work programs, including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), to gainfully engage and train the unemployed, financially assist their families, and add useful public works to communities. Playing a significant role in these recovery programs of the 1933-1942 period was the USDA's National Forest Service. The Forest Service, which was founded in 1905, possessed the technical expertise to oversee new conservation programs and it also administrated many of the lands on which this conservation work was first implemented. One of the new issues that these programs had to deal with was the degree to which the national forest lands should be utilized for recreational purposes. The Forest Service finally developed an administrative policy regarding recreation in the national forests in its Copeland Report but did not create its Division of Recreation and Lands to oversee this new function until 1935, after which it began to design relatively complex recreational facilities. The CCC provided the labor force that allowed the Forest Service to not only pursue appropriate conservation measures within the forest, but also to build these recreational facilities. The Weber Lake shelter is a fine representative example of the projects constructed by these programs.

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter is also a fine example of the Rustic Style of Architecture common to National Parks and Forests of the early and mid-1930s. Its Rustic Style features include the use of native log and stone materials, low, broad lines, exposed structural members, and the absence of added decorative elaboration. The site of the shelter retains much of the original setting developed by the CCC including the beach, and (with some changes) the area located immediately outside the property boundary. The building acquired significance in 1937, the year of its construction (Nicolet News 1985: 63: 7-11 [by William Wolff]; Wolff 1993; USDA National Forest Service 1935 [plans]; USDA National Forest Service 1937 [land records, 6/8/37]). The significance date is also represented by the year of its construction. The shelter is significant at the local level as a fine, largely intact and representative example of the several Depression Era park shelters that were constructed within the Nicolet National Forest.

Historical Background

Weber Lake (a.k.a. Green Lake in 1937 (USDA Forest Service 1937a; 1937b) is one of many small lakes which surround the cities of Lakewood and Mountain to the south and characterize the forested lands in Vilas, Oneida, and northern Oconto counties. Logging operations began cutting the white pine along the streams and

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lakes of Oconto County perhaps as early as 1825-1827. After 1840, major sawmills became established in the southern portions of the county at such locations as Oconto and Oconto Falls. The industry became more extensive in the 1840s, and by 1860 321 saws at 106 sites operated in the county, then larger than its current boundaries. Logging reached its height in the area between the 1880s and the 1890s. Mills became established along the major rivers of the county such as the Menominee, Peshtigo, Oconto, and Pensauckee rivers and fed markets in Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Chicago. The lumber industry soon drew a sufficiently stable population to organize Oconto County in 1851 with its county seat at Oconto. The Holt Lumber Company, the major logging operation in the county, became established at Oconto in 1856. Ansil Eldred established a logging camp at the site of Mountain in 1861. The community emerged about 1877 as a stopping place along a branch of the Oconto River and served the logging operations in the vicinity. Both the Holt Lumber Company and the Oconto Company maintained camps in the area of Mountain. Railroad connections reached into Oconto County in the 1880s. First constructed as the Wisconsin and Northern Railroad, the Klondike Branch of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad ran from the northern part of the county through Townsend and Lakewood to Mountain and Gillett and onto Green Bay to the southeast. The railroad reached Mountain in 1897-1898 and facilitated the transportation of particularly hardwood logs to the mills and to market. Logging operations cut most of the pine wood timber in the area by 1900. The logging of hardwoods revived the industry during the early decades of the twentieth century.

When logging first declined at the turn of the century, reuse of the cutover lands for agriculture appeared to be one viable economic alternative. Farmers maintained small dairy herds and raised such crops as oats, potatoes, hay, wheat, and some corn. Because of its poor thin forest soils and the short growing season, northern Oconto County was a marginal farming region. However, this area proved to be agriculturally more prosperous than the region to the north, and farming remained a viable source of income until the early 1920s. Low farm income in the 1920s together with a period of harsh weather in the early 1930s led to the abandonment of many farms in the area adjacent to Mountain.

As the area gained railroad connections in the 1890s, the tourist industry was drawn to the area's many lakes and became a more significant part of the economy in the 1920s. It catered primarily to Chicago's elite. The industry stabilized around Lakewood in the 1930s and began to expand in the early 1940s. Attempting to revitalize the economy through its work projects, the National Forest Service recognized this economic attraction and established campgrounds, picnic areas, beach facilities, hiking trails, and similar recreational facilities in Nicolet National Forest during the 1930s and early 1940s (Henry 1921: 2, 7-12, 20-21, 34, 36, 47-48; Brown 1986; Hood 1948; Andreas 1881: 654-55).

Area of Significance: Government

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground is a fine representative example of a resource type that is among the significant legacies of the National Forest Service's program to preserve, maintain, and manage the resources of the nation's national forests

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between 1933 and 1942. Several of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs benefitted both the conservation of lands within the national forests and their recreational development. These programs were largely implemented by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the direction of the Forest Service and the work at Weber Lake site performed by the CCC under the direction of the Forest Service is typical of the projects that were accomplished by these programs in the Nicolet National Forest and in other national forests.

The contemplation and enjoyment of nature had become a pastime for the wealthy in the United States by the 1870s. Nature was viewed as the necessary balance to the problems of life in large, congested cities. It offered fresh air, healthful activities, and a source of spiritual revival. Initially developed in the Adirondack Mountains of New York in the 1870s, resorts catered to the increasing demand for outdoor recreation. The Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and other areas in the West developed from this same impetus. The Rustic Style of architecture emerged to house this resort movement (Schmitt 1969: xix-xxv; Steiner 1970 [1933]: 34-61; Reiger 1975: 50-73; Dulles 1965 [1940]: 321-26; Tweed et al. 1977: 27-48). Thus, the style, concern for the conservation of natural resources, and use of those resources in recreation were interrelated movements emerging in the late nineteenth century, maturing in the early decades of the twentieth century, and sustained and advanced by the Depression Era programs of the New Deal.

The Development of the American Conservation Movement and the Creation of the National Forest Service

Both the National Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps had their origins in the American conservation movement. This movement can trace its own beginnings to the Romantic movement in literature by the early and mid-nineteenth century writers. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau eulogized nature and questioned the supposed benefits of civilization. However, George Perkins Marsh's 1864 Man and Nature Or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action advanced a much more specific and scientific discussion of the exploitation of natural resources. Particularly concerned with the ecology of forests and the consequences of deforestation, Marsh argued even by this early date that human activities can harm the environment. His book became an international classic within ten years. It tremendously influenced the formation of a favorable public climate toward the role of the Federal government in forest conservation during last quarter of the century (West 1992: 1-2; Nash 1967: 44-66, 84-95; 1990: 13-18; Huth 1957: 30-57; Davies 1983 (2); Clepper 1971: 14-15).

In 1867, Increase Lapham prepared an equally significant report on the condition of Wisconsin forests. Commissioned by a special conservation commission created by the Legislature, his Report on the Disastrous Effect of the Destruction of Forest Trees Now Going on so Rapidly in the State of Wisconsin clearly stated the potential for serious environmental and economic consequences if lumbering continued uncontrolled by the state (Carstensen 1958: 6-9). The report brought no change in Wisconsin during the nineteenth century. Among the consequences which Lapham had found in his study was the increased potential for disastrous

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forest fires. The Peshtigo fire in northeastern Wisconsin in October, 1871, was one of the most destructive fires in American history (West 1992: 3).

Forest fires such as the one at Peshtigo led many public leaders to call for governmental action concerning American Forest lands. In 1873, Franklin B. Hough, a scientist and physician, spoke at the 1873 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on the duty of governments to preserve forests. In 1876, the United States Congress directed Hough, the head of the new Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, to prepare a study on the conditions of American forests. The findings of Hough's study confirmed the growing concerns over the rapid depletion of forests and heightened pressure for Federal control of forests (Huth 1957: 174; Clepper 1971: 17-19; Williams 1989: 277-78, 376-77, 400, 449-50).

In 1886, a permanent Division of Forestry was established in the Department of Agriculture under the direction of Bernhard E. Fernow. A Prussian professional forester, Fernow had been active in American forestry since his arrival in the United States in 1876. Fernow and his colleagues in the American Forestry Association worked within government for the protection of the forests. This work culminated in a central piece of legislation in the history of American conservation, the Forest Reserve Act of 1891 (West 1992: 27-29; Williams 1989: 409-12; Davies 1983: (1): 234; Robbins 1985: 7; Clepper 1971: 23-28). Congress passed the act as a rider to a bill revising land laws. It gave the President authority to create forest reserves from public lands. Within weeks, President Benjamin Harrison set aside the first forest reserve composed of almost 1,240,000 acres of public land known as the Yellowstone Forest Reserve and later as the Shoshone and Teton National Forests in Wyoming. By the end of his term, President Harrison had ordered the withdrawal of 13 million acres of forest reserves. In addition, President Grover Cleveland added over 20 million acres before the close of his term of office in 1897.

Because the Forest Reserve Act failed to define the purpose of the reserves, it frequently barred potential users from their resources. The rapid growth of the forest reserves between 1891 and 1897 and the mounting concern of western landowners for their lack of management led to an appropriations bill amendment, the Forest Management Act. It defined the purpose of the 1891 act as watershed protection and the provision of a source of timber for the nation. Also known as the Organic Act, this act thus authorized logging on the reserves. However, this act omitted other potential uses of the reserves such as forage, recreation, and wildlife management. It gave Congressional authority for the organization and management of Federal forest reserves to the General Land Office in the Department of the Interior. The Forestry Division in the Department of Agriculture provided the technical expertise for its operation. The 1897 Organic Act served as the basis for forest management by the Federal government until the passage of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960. Only then did the government actually sanction the additional uses of the forest reserves (Williams 1989: 414-16; Steen 1976: 103-45; West 1992: 30-32, 51; Clepper 1971 102-34; Davies 1983 (1): 222; Robbins 1988: 8; Smith 1930: 20-22).

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The General Land Office administered the forest reserves by grouping them into eleven districts and appointing a superintendent for each district, a supervisor for each reserve, and rangers for work within the reserves. When Gifford Pinchot was appointed head of the Division of Forestry in 1898, he developed more efficient management policies for the reserves in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. Pinchot was a fellow conservationist and close friend of Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt. After Roosevelt became president following the assassination of President McKinley in September, 1901, Pinchot and Roosevelt worked closely together on conservation policies. Pinchot soon recognized that the national reserves possessed many uses each of which required management to fill both current and future needs.

By the beginning of 1902, Roosevelt was considering the transfer of the forest reserves from the General Land Offices to Pinchot's Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture. In that year, the Department of the Interior issued an administrative manual which reflected Pinchot's theories on forest management. In effect, Pinchot was directly heading the Division of Forestry in Agriculture, and indirectly controlling the operations of the Forestry Division in Interior. By early 1905, Congress approved the transfer of the forest reserves from Interior to Agriculture, and on July 1, 1905, the Bureau of Forestry became the United States Forest Service. The new agency gained responsibility for the administration of 63 million acres in sixty forest reserves, all located in the western United States. In 1907, the forest reserves were renamed national forests. But, legislation ended the presidential authority to create national forests and forbade the creation or enlargement of forests in six western states without Congressional approval. However, Congress continued to expand the national forests. Between 1905 and 1907, Roosevelt and Congress added over 130 million acres to the 1905 transfer acreage of 63 million acres. At the 1908 Conservation Conference of Governors, Roosevelt stressed the need to manage natural resources including soil, water, forests, and minerals, and at this early date he advised the creation of a national resources plan (Nash 1968: 59; West 1992: 30-32, 37-39; Steen 1976: 69-103; Smith 1930: 27-34; Elliott 1977: 35; Pinkett 1970; Otis 5, 40-45; Wirth 1980: 17,43).

The national forests had been created from lands located entirely in the western states and held in the public domain. To protect forested watersheds and meet the recreational needs of large urban populations, influential political groups in eastern states pressed the federal government to create forests in the eastern states. Federal acquisition of the eastern forest lands was possible only through purchase. However, since the federal land policy had been one of disposal rather than acquisition, the Constitution failed to provide the government explicit authority for land purchase. Passed in March, 1911, the Weeks Act authorized the federal purchase of lands at the headwaters of navigable streams. The specified location of land purchase recognized the importance of forests in flood protection. Popular support grew from a desire for government involvement in forest fire protection. The first instance of federal funding of non-federal programs, the law also provided matching funds to create state forestry agencies who became involved in fire control programs. National forests had been created in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Oklahoma from lands remaining in the public domain. The Weeks Act permitted

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additions to these forests and the creation of new national forests through purchase (Steen 1976: 122-31; Robbins 1985: 50-84; West 1992: 41-43).

As head of the Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot had established a decentralized structure for the agency so that personnel in each forest possessed the authority to manage it. Pinchot's Use Book provided the rules and regulations to guide actions and decisions in the field. It clearly stated the function of the reserves including the preservation of a continual supply of timber for industries, the maintenance of a forest cover which naturally regulated the flow of streams, and the protection of the interest of local communities adjacent to the forest reserves. To ensure effective operation of this decentralization organization, Pinchot divided the country into forest districts whose headquarters oversaw inspection and review of individual forest management. The districts were subdivided into national forests, each headed by a forest supervisor, and forests were divided into districts headed by district rangers. The districts which became regions in 1930 played a central role in the supervision of Civilian Conservation Corps activities (Pinkett 1970: 67; Steen 1976: 76-81; Smith 1930: 75; West 1992: 39).

Because of Pinchot's conflicts with Richard A. Ballinger, an official in the Department of the Interior, President Taft removed him from his position in January, 1910. Pinchot's successor, Henry S. Graves, then dealt with these concerns which primarily involved the administration of recreational activities in the national forests. Recreational use rose as the government increased accessibility to and through the national forests. The recreation uses of public lands had increased rapidly after 1910. Both professional organizations and the public directed the Federal government to create a parks bureau to deal specifically with recreation on Federal lands. The government responded to this demand for recreational oversight of public lands by the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. Its functions potentially competed with those of the National Forest Service (Steen 1976: 113-22; West 1992: 51-54; Williams 1989: 456-58).

To facilitate the administration of the national forests, the Forest Service planned a comprehensive system of roads and trails in its forests beginning in 1909. In fiscal year 1912, Congress authorized the use of forest receipts to fund road and trail construction. This source of funding for such construction became permanent in 1913. This transportation system was an essential part of forest development because it permitted access to the forests for the fighting of forest-fires. In 1916, the Forest Service received an additional ten million dollars for roads and trails for the development of resources on which the communities within the forest depended. By 1921, the Federal High Act provided additional funding for highway construction through forests as part of a 39,000 mile forest road and Federal highway network. Such a network not only permitted improved protection of the forests but gave visitors access to the forests (Steen 1976: 154-55; Smith 1930: 52-58).

The Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 continued the growth and improved management of the national forests through the 1920s. The act permitted the purchase of forest lands which were within watersheds of navigable streams rather than just at the

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headwaters as specified under the Weeks Law of 1911. The Clarke-McNary Act also authorized appropriations for cooperative programs with state agencies for fire control, farm forestry extension, and production and distribution of forest planting stock. This act thus emphasized cooperation rather than coercion of private interests in the forests (Smith 1930: 63, 90; Steen 1976: 185-95; Davies 1983: 86; West 1992: 54). By the 1920s, Forest Service policies not only recognized multiple uses of the forests but also varied treatment depending on the available resources and environment. Congressional acts in 1924 and 1925 permitted donations of land to the national forests as a third means of expanding the forests in addition to reserving lands from the public domain and government purchase.

The Creation of the Nicolet National Forest in the Cutover Lands

In 1929, the National Forest Service established the North Central National Forest District and placed its regional headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This new district oversaw national forests in the Great Lakes area of the country. The forests in Minnesota then included the Superior National Forest established in 1909 and the Chippewa National Forest created in 1928 from the former Minnesota National Forest formed in 1908. National forests in Michigan included the Michigan and Marquette National Forests created in 1909 and the Huron National Forest established in 1928. In 1930, the forest districts were renamed regions. The former North Central National Forest District became Region Nine of the United States Forest Service. The region grew with the creation of new national forests in the early 1930s including the Hiawatha and Ottawa national forests in Michigan established in 1931 and the Nicolet and Chequamegon national forests of Wisconsin created in 1933.

On March 2, 1933, presidential proclamation created the Nicolet National forest from cutover timber lands purchased in northeastern Wisconsin (Elliott 1977 [1989]: 35; USDA 1949: 373). The origins of the Nicolet are found in the history of the lumber industry in Wisconsin. Because of the extensive pine forests across the northern part of the state, Wisconsin became a leading lumber-producing state in the second half of the nineteenth century. The state lead the nation in this industry between 1900 and 1904. However, production fell steadily, and by 1920 Wisconsin ranked tenth in the nation (Lusignan 1986 (5): 14-15). Harvesting patterns, fires, and the absence of reforestation policies contributed to production decline and increase in cutover lands in the state.

The Wisconsin lumber industry harvested pine in the second half of the nineteenth century. After the pine stocks became depleted, the industry began to harvest hemlock and cedar as well as hardwoods such as basswood, elm, and ash. Fire protection was virtually non-existent as the lumber companies left behind slash after cutting over the forest land. By 1923, fires and uncontrolled cutting left less than two million acres of usable timber from the almost thirty million acres of forests which had covered the state in the mid-nineteenth century (Wisconsin Committee on Land Use and Forestry 1932: 17-18; Becker 1952).

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Logging in the area of the Nicolet National Forest began in the 1850s along waterways to facilitate movement of the logs. The building of railroads into the area in the 1880s allowed logging operations to penetrate beyond the timber-depleted waterways and stimulated the growth of permanent communities. In this period, the north-south running Milwaukee, Lakeshore, and Western Railroad served Vilas County. It connected to the south with the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault St. Marie built east-west across northern Wisconsin in conjunction with the Canadian Pacific. It primarily carried lumber, pulpwood, and minerals. Lumbering of pine reached its peak by 1899 when the cutting of hardwoods increased. By the 1920s, the disposal of slash in some areas through controlled burning had established the growth of pioneer species such as aspen, white birch, jack pine. Without use for such woods at the time, the area continued its economic decline (Walker 1959: 2; Becker 1952; Lusignan 1986 (5): 15; Fay 1986 (6): 1, 6; (7): 1; Elliott 1977 [1989]: 35).

Attempts to farm the cutover lands failed because the land and the climate were not suitable for crops. The inability of farmers to support themselves in the area increased the number of tax delinquent properties. In 1927, nearly twenty-five percent of the land in the northern seventeen Wisconsin counties had become tax delinquent. In that year, Wisconsin voters approved an amendment to the tax clause of the state constitution, the Forest Tax Law, which permitted a taxation method for forest property different from that of non-forest property. It distinguished between land as capital and timber as income. This unique tax structure alleviated some of the problems in the area, but did not stop the rise in tax delinquency. This tax delinquent property effectively created a new public domain administered by the counties (Brown 1986 (4): 3; Sylvester 1992: 34-36; West 1992: 3; Wisconsin Committee on Land Use and Forestry 1932: 84-95). The Depression accelerated the reversion of land to the counties, even as counties, towns, cities, and school boards were establishing forests of their own (Becker 1952).

The purchase of forest lands by the Federal government under the Weeks Law of 1911 and the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 provided one solution to the management of the cutover lands. Both the Weeks Act and Clarke-McNary Act permitted the purchase of forest lands by the Federal government if the forests lay at the headwaters or within the watersheds of navigable streams. The presence of the Eastern Continental Divide within the Nicolet National Forest clearly qualified the forest for purchase. The first purchase within the Nicolet National Forest was the Oneida Purchase Unit acquired by the federal government from the Thunder Lake Lumber Company of Rhinelander in December, 1928. This unit consisted of 151,680 acres in Oneida, Forest, and Vilas counties. In March, 1932, the Forest Service acquired 68,000 additional acres in the Oneida Unit and gained 204,800 acres of the Oconto Unit in Forest, Vilas, Oconto, and Langlade counties. The National Forest Service established its headquarters in Rhinelander in March, 1933. In March, 1934, the National Forest was extended into Florence, Forest, Oconto, and Vilas counties (Elliott 1977 [1989]: 35, 37).

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The Work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Nicolet

The creation of the Nicolet National Forest coincided with the 1933 publication of the Copeland Report on American forestry and the creation of the Emergency Conservation Works program by Franklin Roosevelt in March, 1933.

On March 13, 1933, the Forest Service issued its National Plan for American Forestry in the Copeland Report (USDA 1933). This report resulted from discussions in the U.S. Senate recommending the use of reforestation as a source of work for unemployed Americans. The final report added fire protection; flood control; soil erosion; forest research; wildlife, timber and range management; and recreation to the Forest Service's Depression Era agenda. However, the report clearly stated that the protection of these resources depended on federal-state control of forestry on private lands. Congress rejected the report on this basis. Its historical significance lies in its linkage between resource conservation and work relief. In this capacity, it served as the basis for the New Deal forest conservation program (Steen 1979: 199-204; Leake 1980). During the Depression Era, the general understanding of resource conservation finally reflected the ideas of Gifford Pinchot at the turn of the century. Rather than the hoarding of resources, Franklin Roosevelt advocated the protection and prudent use of the resources in a manner which would benefit a majority of the nation. Such an approach required the national planning of resource use, a major objective of the Roosevelt administration. The National Plan of the Forest Service thus represented such a national-level planning effort to ensure the proper utilization of the nation's forests and address their recreational potential (U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works 1934: 75; Owen 1983: 82, 102; Ahlgren 1987: 11).

In 1932, twenty percent of the American work force or 28 million were jobless and millions were homeless. Estimates indicated that over half of the young men between 15 and 24 were either unemployed or working only part time. Thus, Franklin D. Roosevelt faced tremendous economic and social problems as he began his presidency in early 1933. In response to this emergency condition, he developed the New Deal composed of a package of emergency legislation to both improve economic conditions and the nation's natural resources. A series of recent natural disasters underscored the long-term deterioration of these resources. The package addressed the problems of the cutover forests of the north and the dust bowl of the Plains and provided labor to resolve them. The acts which composed the legislation had been tried before in isolated instances. However, it was the rapid expansion of the federal bureaucracy in recognition of the government's responsibility to the welfare of its citizens which was innovative. This role had traditionally belonged to the family or at most the local community not the federal government (Ahlgren 1987: 10-12).

On March 15, 1933, Congress convened to act on emergency legislation. The following one hundred days of the Roosevelt administration produced a model for the legislation which followed and remained in effect during the 1930s and early 1940s. Later acts defined and supplemented this legislation, but they did not alter their substance (Schlesinger 1940: 1; Cohen 1980). In this legislation, Roosevelt attempted to effect the recovery for a major portion of the economy

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including agriculture, industry, and banking as well as provide relief to the unemployed and disadvantaged members of society (Otis 1986: 5-6). Because of the variations in the types of individuals who required relief and the multiple causes which gave rise to their needs as well as the fluctuations in the public attitude concerning how to meet those needs, the solution was equally complex.

In response to the Forest Service's National Plan and based on his own personal interest in conservation, Roosevelt announced his intent to develop an Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) program on March 21, 1933. It would enroll young men in a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to undertake conservation and recreation work in the national parks and forests. Rather than offering doles to the unemployed, the program's funds supported projects of public benefit to employ those needing work. The program lifted morale and sustained the skills of many American workers who had lost their jobs because of the state of the economy rather than their own negligence. The program also provided some training to those reaching the age of employment. By March 31, Congress passed the necessary legislation to establish the program. This legislation provided the president with broad authority to execute the act. On April 5, 1933, Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6106, Relief of Unemployment through the Performance of Useful Public Works which further defined the parameters of the legislation (Paige 1985: 7-19; Salmond 1967: 3-25; Wirth 1980: 67-70; Rawick 1957: 35-56; Owen 1983: 84; Isakoss 1938: 19-22).

The program remained formally titled the Emergency Conservation Work program until 1937 when it became the Civilian Conservation Corps program. Robert Fechner, a labor union official, directed the CCC and coordinated the program with other Federal agencies. Representatives of these agencies composed an advisory council which recommended policies to the director and oversaw the program's budget. The organizational structure of the ECW program mobilized four existing departments of federal government. The Labor Department undertook the selection of the enrollees from state relief records. The War Department provided staff for basic conditioning programs at the CCC district headquarters and for the operation of the CCC work camps. The Departments of Interior and Agriculture, known as the technical services, supervised the work projects. The National Park Service in the Department of the Interior served as the technical agency overseeing national and state park projects. The Department of Agriculture was responsible for soil conservation and, through the Forest Service, for fire protection, reforestation, and recreation projects in national and state forests. Nation-wide, the National Forest Service directed 82 percent of all the work projects in the first year. Both technical services were responsible for planning and executing the work projects, furnishing the equipment, tools, and supplies, and providing transportation to the projects. Although the technical services did not run the camps, they did locate each camp adjacent to a work project with which it was associated.

The act required that CCC enrollees be between the ages of 18 and 25 and unmarried and come from families on relief. In 1937, the government broadened the age limits. Enlistment lasted six months with the opportunity for re-enlistment. During this period, enrollees received clothing, food, shelter, education, job training of varying quality, and a thirty dollar-per-month

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allowance of which twenty-five went to their families. Effectively, this program put young men to work, provided funds to economically-distressed family members, brought money into communities near the location of camps and projects, and accomplished a tremendous amount of conservation work throughout the nation. The CCC program eventually enrolled 75,000 men from Wisconsin, and 92,000 enrollees served in Wisconsin.

After entrance into the program, the CCC assigned enrollees to one of nine Army Corps centers for basic training and physical conditioning. Most of the CCC camps operating in Wisconsin were formed from enrollees processed through the Sixth Army Corps headquarters located at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, near Chicago. The army subdivided each Army Corps area into districts whose sizes depended on the number of camps managed in the district. By 1935, the Sparta District included the CCC camps working on the Nicolet. Headquartered near Sparta, the district served northern Wisconsin north of an east-west line through Baraboo. Located near Mountain, camp number F-19, CCC Company 1653 and its predecessor Company 1695 participated in the development of picnic and camp ground adjacent to Weber or Green Lake and other lakes in the vicinity such as Boot Lake as early as 1933 (Gillett Times 1936 [6/25: 1/2]; CCC 1933-42 [camp F-19, CCC companies F-1695 and 1653]).

After completion of their basic training, CCC enrollees were assigned to camps. An advance group of enrollees and military staff proceeded to the camp site to prepare for the arrival of the remaining members of the 200-man companies. The early CCC camps used tents for housing. Later, prefabricated, permanent structures or "rigid camps" were built. Towards the end of the 1930s, the CCC employed movable units or "portable camps." Frequently, the CCC used small subcamps or side camps to reduce travel time from the main camp to the project site or to undertake small, short-term projects. Once the camp became operational, civilian technical staff from either the Forest Service or the National Park Service assumed supervision of the enrollees' work program. The federal agency provided all the design, planning, and technical background for projects. The CCC enrollees supplied the labor force available to the technical agencies for the completion of the projects (Ermentrout 1981: 11; Cohen 1980: 155; CCC Sixth Corps Area 1937: 23; Wirth 1980: 76-99; Rawick 1957: 56-63; Salmond 1967: 26-32; Paige 1985: 52-64).

For the most part, communities benefitted from the presence of CCC camps in their areas. The CCC employed a small number of locally unemployed, skilled men known as Local Experienced Men (LEM). The construction and conservation projects improved the community and often attracted revenue from travelers using new recreational facilities. To assist local businesses and maintain a positive image, the CCC directed the army to purchase many of the camp supplies including food, tools, and building materials locally. The five dollars-per-month allowance to the enrollees was usually spent locally on entertainment. Because of these benefits including the approximately 1000 dollars spent per month at local businesses, the CCC camps retained a popular public image. The presence of a CCC camp considerably reduced the economic crisis faced by the local community (Salmond 1967: 35; Paige 1985: 73-79; Wirth 1980: 105-08, 111; Rawick 1957: 64).

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As the CCC matured, additional legislation and executive action soon corrected some of the deficiencies in its original organization. The vast majority of the CCC enrollees were unskilled laborers from urban areas. Construction and forestry projects required experienced workmen with sufficient technical skills. On April 22, 1933, the president approved the hiring of Local Experienced Men (LEM) who were unemployed foresters and construction workers from communities near the proposed projects. They provided additional technical skills and leadership as foremen. The Forest Service camp thus included the camp superintendent; three to six foresters; three to four construction foremen, the LEM's; two to three subforemen who were experienced enrollees; and the enrollees. The army added an educational advisor. By 1934, the CCC also hired local college students majoring in landscape architecture, engineering, forestry, geology, history, and science during the summer to provide added technical direction. The regional office in Milwaukee also employed individuals skilled in these areas to review project proposals; provide the necessary oversight, design, master plans, and individual building plans for the projects; and inspect their execution. The planning of each project to fit within the existing environment and meet the local needs was an important initial step in each project (Paige 1985: 44-45, 50-51, 69; Leake 1980; Wirth 1980: 111-14; Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 91; Elliott 1977 [1989]: 43).

The CCC projects advanced the cause of conservation and recreational development many years. The conservation projects frequently involved forest protection, tree planting, game and fish management, disease control, fire fighting in the forests, forest fire pre-suppression, road building and telephone installation across the forests, tree nursery development and maintenance, forest stand improvement through thinning, the protection of lake and stream banks, and erosion control. The Forest Service also undertook construction projects for recreational and administrative facilities. The administrative projects included the operation and management of the forest and resulted in the building of district headquarters, ranger station offices and dwellings, training centers, garages, storage buildings, nurseries, fire towers, bridges, dams, roads, and trails. Recreational projects provided for public activities non-harmful to the to the natural setting as the forests experienced a rising number of visitors. Forests supported several types of potential recreational areas depending on their natural setting. Most forests were capable of providing hiking, nature study, and camping. Recreational improvements supported by the Forest Service often along with other forestry work included trails, access roads, bridges, picnic and trail side shelters, dams for the creation of swimming, boating facilities, bathhouses, guest cabins, comfort stations, and water and sewage systems (Kylie, Hieronymus, and Hall 1937: 279-81; Owen 1983: 129; Otis 1986: 1, 10).

From the beginning, Congress viewed the CCC as a temporary relief measure. Enacting legislation appropriated money for two-year period. Additionally, each enrollment period for the CCC lasted only six months. The Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935 extended and refunded the CCC until 1937. It expanded the CCC enrollment to 600,000 and raised the enrollee age limited from twenty-three to twenty-five. Peak enrollment occurred in September, 1935 at 505,782 after which the number declined gradually (Ahlgren 1987: 12; Paige 1985: 21).

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As the economy slowly began its recovery by 1935, the CCC began to shift its focus from relief to training to enable enrollees to better support themselves after their departure. The CCC more closely supervised the army's development of education and vocational training at the camps (Cohen 1980: 13). In early 1936, Roosevelt ordered the reduction of the enrollment to 300,000 by July 1, 1936. Seeking to create the CCC as a permanent agency in the federal government, he reduced its costs to make the proposal more palatable to Congress. Although the legislature did not favor a permanent agency, this reduction met considerable resistance from midwestern congressmen whose constituents sought its continuation. Faced with opposition, Roosevelt compromised. All camps remained active until the completion of their work projects at which time some were closed. Roosevelt's policy resulted in extensive camp closings. In December, 1935, the Nicolet National Forest included twenty-two camps. By early, 1937, there were forty-five CCC camps remaining in the Sparta District. Of the thirty-two camps assigned to the Forest Service, eighteen were associated with federal projects and fourteen with forestry projects. Nine of the eighteen federal project camps were then located in the Nicolet National Forest: Phelps, Scott Lake, Long Lake, Alvin, Rainbow (Florence), Cavour, Blackwell, Boot Lake, and Mountain (Elliott 1977 [1989]; Rawick 1957: 68-78; Salmond 1967: 63-70; Wirth 1985: 105, 121, 131; Pager 1983: 11; Oconto County Reporter 1935 [12/12/: 1/6; 12/5: 4/3]; Leake 1980).

Congress funded the CCC as a separate agency in June, 1937. Under this act, its name was officially altered from Emergency Conservation Work to the Civilian Conservation Corps, already its popular name. Unlike the 1933 act, the 1937 act incorporated specific directives. It emphasized vocational training rather than work relief by allotting up to ten hours per week to educational activities. The act lowered the enrollment number to 300,000 men between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three and included an additional 10,000 Native Americans. Each enrollee was allotted a term between six months and two years. The CCC remained a temporary agency, now extended for a period of three years (Cohen 1980: 132; Paige 1985: 21). In 1939, the CCC as well as the National Youth Administration, the Social Security Board, the Office of Education, the Public Health Service, and similar agencies were placed within the Federal Security Agency because they shared a similar purpose. They administered public welfare furthering economic and social security, educational opportunities, and health (Ahlgren 1987: 105; Johnson 1941: 150-51).

Despite official recognition of the Civilian Conservation Corps as the successor to the Emergency Conservation Work program on June 28, 1937, camps closed and enrollments declined. Reductions continued from 1937 through 1940 when the program was severely decreased as the Army Reserve officers who ran the camps were called to active duty. In 1940 and 1941, the work of the remaining CCC camps shifted from conservation and recreation projects to the construction of defense facilities. By 1941, the CCC itself experienced labor shortages as young men joined the defense industries. The Civilian Conservation Corps ended on June 30, 1942 after Congress failed to appropriate funding for its activities in fiscal year 1943 (Rawick 1957: 72-94; Wirth 1985: 143; Leake 1980; Ahlgren 1987: 105).

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Recreational Uses of the National Forests

Public interest in recreation in the national forests forced the National Forest Service to become involved in this use between its creation in 1905 and 1933 when it created its National Plan for American Forestry. During 1917, three million visitors used the national forests. However, because the Forest Service perceived its role as natural resource management within the forests, the agency hesitated to acknowledge recreation as a legitimate use of the forests and failed to develop policies guiding this function. Recreational development and timber management appeared to be incompatible uses. Controlling the forest reserves until the creation of the Forest Service, the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior received congressional authorization to issue special use permits for the location of hotels and sanitariums within the reserves. After the transfer of the reserves to the Forest Service, the General Land Office permit provision remained in place and served as a basis for Forest Service recreational management. Explaining the basis policies of the newly-established Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot's Use Book of July, 1905 did not specifically deal with recreational uses of the forests. But, the discussion of the rights of legitimate occupants and use permit procedures did address the operators of hotels and cabins. The Antiquities Act of 1906 directed the Forest Service to safeguard objects and areas of national heritage within the forests. As these resources became the focus of public interest, the Forest Service became involved in recreation despite its reluctance (West 1992: 52-53; Steiner 1970 [1933]: 41-42; Smith 1930: 79; Steen 1976: 78-80, 113-117; Tweed 1980: 2).

In 1915, the Forest Service supported Congressional action to develop a long-term permit policy for the national forests. This initiative resulted in the Term Occupancy Act permitting private use and development of forest lands for period up to thirty years. In 1916, the Forest Service undertook its first official recreation project, the construction of the Eagle Creek Campground in the Oregon National Forest. In this instance, the agency strove to control the increase in camping tourists visiting the Columbia River Gorge by defining specific camp areas. Competition with the recently established National Park Service probably stimulated the Forest Service's interest in forest recreation. Professional organizations such as the American Society of Landscape Architects contributed to this competition. Its members wrote articles weighing the suitability of the two agencies for the development of recreational facilities (Steen 1976: 114-20; Tweed 1980: 3-5; Chapman 1925).

Responding to the competition of the National Park Service to serve recreational needs, the Forest Service was advised by professionals in landscape architecture to undertake a study of the recreational potentials in the national forests. In 1917, the Forest Service hired Frank A. Waugh, a professional landscape architect from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, to prepare such a study. Waugh visited the forests and prepared three reports: Recreational Uses on the National Forest, the main report (Waugh 1918); Landscape Engineering in the National Forests, and A Plan for the Development of the Village of Grand Canyon. Waugh drew numerous conclusions from these studies. The main premise guiding his conclusions stated that outdoor recreation was a "... necessity of civilized life." The government had created

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forest reserves to serve such a lifestyle. Since recreational uses were increasing, he indicated that the costs sustained by the Forest Service to develop recreational facilities were in the public interest. Comparing the cash value of forest recreation to other types of recreation such as movies, vaudeville, concerts, theater, baseball, and the circus, Waugh found that the public invested as much income in forest recreation as the other types. Because of the high value placed on forest recreation, he thus concluded that recreation be considered a major activity in the forests. Public need supported separate development by the Forest Service from the Park Service of recreational activities on the forests. Waugh urged the Forest Service to establish a committee within the agency to oversee recreational use and hiring of personnel with technical ability in recreation planning and landscape engineering (Tweed 1980: 6-7; Steen 1976: 120; Waugh 1918: 23-27, 35-36; Kneipp 1924: 302-303; Scott 1925).

Frank Waugh continued to serve as a consultant to the Forest Service into the mid-1930s. Most importantly, he convinced the Forest Service to hire a professional landscape engineer to undertake the implementation of his findings. In early 1919, Arthur H. Carhart became the Forest Service's first landscape engineer and recreation planner. Carhart viewed the act of visiting wilderness areas as a recreational experience. Because most of the national forests were in the West, the Forest Service assigned Carhart to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver. Although his first projects focused on single campgrounds within the forests, Waugh realized a need to develop comprehensive master plans for entire forests. He created his first master plan for the San Isabel National Forest in Colorado in late 1919. Because the Forest Service would or could not appropriate regular funding for the implementation of the plan, the local San Isabel Public Recreation Association supported his work at San Isabel by raising funds to execute the plan (Tweed 1980: 8-10; West 1992: 53; Carhart 1920: 268-72; 1920b: 549-53; 1922a: 437-40; 1922b: 597-601; 1923s: 210-13; 1923b: 49-54; 1923c: 10-14).

Despite Carhart's input, the Forest Service remained reluctant to acknowledge the need for recreational development and to fund recreational projects such as San Isabel. Because the Forest Service continued to believe that only foresters perceived all the needs of forest development and that their own personnel could manage recreational improvement, the agency funded Carhart's master planning efforts at low levels. Recreational development remained a low priority. Frustrated with the Forest Service's response to his efforts, Carhart resigned in 1922. Between 1923 and 1933, foresters oversaw recreation in the national forests. During this decade, the Forest Service provided space for recreation but not the facilities. Recreation was considered a local concern and was to be financed and developed privately through the Term Occupancy Act of 1915 (Tweed 1980: 12-13; Steen 1976: 120; Steiner 1970 [1933]: 171).

Waugh's and Carhart's efforts did alert the Forest Service to recreational uses on the national forests and the potential for further development despite the Forest Service's failure to establish a clear recreational policy defining permissible noncommodity functions. In May, 1924, over 300 delegates from 128 organizations involved in conservation and recreation formed the National

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Conference on Outdoor Recreation and met at Washington, D.C. Remaining in existence until 1929, this group promoted outdoor recreation, particularly in the national forests and parks (National Conference on Outdoor Recreation 1928; Hubbard 1924: 58-61; Brumbaugh 1924: 71-73; Chapman 1924: 44-47; Merriam 1926: 30-35). Two of the member organizations, the American Forestry Association and the National Parks Association, requested information from the Forest Service for an inventory of outdoor recreation resources on Federal lands as part of a national plan for recreation. The resulting report of 1928 found that the Forest Service viewed recreation as a revenue source rather than a conservation use of the forests. The agency had actually overdeveloped some wilderness areas to increase special use fees. The Forest Service continued to consider recreational uses by individual merit through the late 1920s. Increasing mobility through automobile travel raised the demand for outdoor recreation destinations and placed considerable pressure on the Forest Service to develop a recreation policy (U.S. Joint Committee on Recreational Survey of Federal Lands 1928; Steen 1976: 152-54; Dulles 1965 [1940]: 312-26).

Beginning in the early 1920s, wilderness preservation became a rather incompatible but major aspect of recreational development. The Forest Service possessed the authority to designate inaccessible, noncommercial areas for recreation. They were unused, undeveloped wilderness areas in the forests set aside for the public to view and experience. To the commodity-orientation of the Forest Service, such areas were unproductive but maintained to attract income from visitors. The degree of visitor development to and within these areas remained a significant issue. Following the advice of Aldo Leopold, a forester in the Southwest, Chief Forester William Greeley administratively designated part of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico as a wilderness area in 1924. Carhart had suggested the creation of such areas in the southwest as early as 1919 (Steen 1976: 154-56; Schmitt 1969: 173).

Competition between the Forest Service and the Park Service for funding increased through the 1920s as larger appropriations went to the national parks rather than the national forests. Reacting to these funding decisions, the Forest Service began to promote the recreational opportunities on the forests without establishing policies for such uses. In 1929, the Forest Service created two new areas of forest use: research reserves and primitive areas. The agency set aside research reserves for scientific and educational use and the primitive or historical areas for visitors wishing to experience the undeveloped "pioneer" wilderness. As the number of visitors to the forest climbed, the public became more aware of logging practices on the forest. As a consequence, portions of the public outside forestry began to demand greater regulation of forest uses. The Forest Service responded to this negative image by developing additional scenic and recreational areas to balance the industrial uses of the forests. By the close of the 1920s, the agency had become actively involved in forest recreation either by issuing special use permits or by establishing wilderness, research or primitive areas. The agency's major concern remained the balance between expenditures for recreational facilities and management and the funding for and revenues generated by recreation (Steen 1976: 157-62; Schmitt 1969: 173; Tweed 1980: 13-14; Kneipp 1931: 9-11; Morse 1933: 205).

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By 1932, Forest Service continued to place the responsibility for recreation planning with the Regional Foresters and Forest Supervisors. But as the use continued to rise without guidance from a general recreation policy for forest development, Chief Forester Robert Y. Stuart ordered a nation-wide study of the national forests in the spring of 1932. Senator Royal Copeland of New York sponsored the request from the U.S. Senate to perform the study. Completed in March, 1933, the National Plan for American Forestry (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1933) or the Copeland Report presented a single national plan for American forestry. It documented the conclusions of the recreational study which linked recreational development to related forestry issues surrounding timber, range, and wildlife resources, research, state aid, and fire and watershed protection. It recognized the concept of multiple use within the forests. The Copeland Report became the strategy followed by New Deal forestry programs. Discussions in the Senate concerning the use of reforestation projects as part of a public works program for the unemployed had originally stimulated the study. In concert with this approach, the Forest Service responded to the proposal by confirming that forestry could indeed become a solution to the problems of unemployment under the auspices of the Forest Service in cooperation with state agencies and private organizations (Tweed 1980: 15; Steen 1976: 199-208; West 1992: 54).

Robert Marshall prepared the recreation section of the 1933 Copeland Report. A forester, Marshall became the leading advocate for wilderness preservation and served as the director of the Forest Service's Division of Recreation and Land established in 1937. Marshall stated that most forest types offered opportunities for one or more forms of recreation. However, certain forms of recreation required special environments. For example, superlative areas contained extraordinary scenic values; the primitive areas encompassing tracts of old timber growth reflected little evidence of human intervention; wilderness areas lacked permanent inhabitants or vehicle roads; roadside areas included timber stands along major roads; residential areas were set aside for private homes, hotels, and cabins; camping areas served overnight and organized camping; and outing areas provided limited scenic opportunities away from highway traffic. Marshall created an action plan for realizing these recreation types. His plan began with the identification of suitable sites, moved to acquisition of selected sites, and concluded with the planning, implementation, and administration of the developed sites. Congressional legislation and appropriations held the key to the implementation of the entire plan. Approved shortly after the completion of the Copeland Report, President Roosevelt's Emergency Conservation Work program which adopted the Copeland Report as the New Deal plan for American forestry and provided the necessary confirmation of the plan and its funding.

Marshall supported the need for recreation in the national forests by citing the statistics which counted 32 million visitors to national forests as compared with the three million visitors to national parks in 1931 (Buck 1933: 191-98). Based on records dating between 1917 and 1931 from both the Park Service and the Forest Service, Marshall demonstrated that visits to the national forests had increased tenfold while those to the parks rose only eightfold. This preference for the use of national forests occurred during a period when the parks but not the forests were funded for recreational development. Marshall failed to note that

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the forests covered a broader area. Citing the rising population, shorter working weeks and more leisure time, probable rise in the standard of living and increased ability to travel, increasing ease of travel through the use of the automobile, and the greater psychological necessity to escape from congested urban areas, Marshall projected that recreational use of national forests would rise.

In the Copeland Report, Marshall found that Americans used the forests for a variety of recreational pursuits. They ranged from enjoyment of the outdoors as an opposition to the routine of everyday life; good health stimulated by pure air, exercise, and relaxation; aesthetic pleasure gained from experiencing nature; the spiritual communion with nature and contemplation; scientific study; historical interests, primarily the pursuit of the era's interpretation of pioneer heritage; and the desire to escape from mechanization and artificiality of modern day life (West 1992: 54; Schmitt 1969: 173-89; Marshall 1930; 1935: 11-13, 30; Steen 1976: 210-13, 228; Hall 1936: 382-87, 411-17, 475-80). Contemporary treatises confirmed the necessity of recreation with the rise of urban living. With the increasing mechanization of work through the 1920s, Americans gained a greater amount of leisure time. But, this increased speed of production also intensified the strain of work remedied through recreation. Additionally, man had substituted surroundings of his own making, the cities and even the farms, for the natural environment. Recreation in the natural environment returned modern man to his primeval origins and provided relaxation from the strains created by these artificial surroundings. Recreation, then, became "the pleasurable and constructive use of leisure time" and an opportunity to refresh body and spirit in a natural setting (U.S. National Park Service 1941: 1). The safeguarding of the inspirational qualities of the nation's natural environment whether they be natural scenery or scientific or historical values provided appropriate recreation (National Park Service 1941: v, vii, 9; Wirth 1980: 3-4; Steiner 1970 [1933]: 9-11, 34; Dulles 1965 [1940]: 386-97; Braden 1988: 305-22; Heaton 1929: 108-38; Schmitt 1969: 11-19, 154-76; Reiger 1975: 31; Sharp 1933: 193-95).

Marshall's 1933 contribution to the Copeland Report listed several different forms of recreational activities in the forests and described the kinds of development necessary to accommodate them. He focused on the proper use of wilderness areas which had gained considerable popularity during the 1920s. Because the activity disrupted natural surroundings, camping was an appropriate activity only in very large wilderness areas. Further, such modern developments as roads, settlements, and power lines were excluded from wilderness areas, but telephone lines, trails, temporary shelters for public use, and lookout cabins for Forest Service personnel were permissible. Roadside areas developed for the visual enjoyment of natural scenery by visitors as they moved through the forest included timbered strips 125 to 250 feet wide along highways, lakes, and river. He estimated a one-quarter acre tract per single tent site for campsites, and his total campsite size ranged broadly from one tent site to a thousand tents. Marshall placed campsites adjacent to water and away from highways to eliminate such intrusions into the natural setting as noise and dust created by the automobile. After construction of the campsite area, areas disturbed by construction were to be landscaped to bring them into conformity with the natural

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surroundings. Because the private residential areas attracted considerable revenue for the Forest Service, such areas were continued. Marshall advocated the restriction of size to one-quarter of an acre and their separation by buffer areas from wilderness areas. The buffer areas contained locations for outings easily accessible to the public such as picnicking.

Marshall observed that the absence of an overall Forest Service recreation policy had begun to damage the forests through unregulated uses such as fires started by visitors, particularly campers. To avert further damage to the environment, he specified close management of these recreational facilities in the forests. Recommendations for regulation of use included the creation of additional campgrounds to avoid overuse of established facilities. Campgrounds permitted the concentration and control of camp fires. The efficiently planned campground protected the surrounding forest environment while including specific areas for parking, tents, camp fires, and eating meals. Campground development required management and inspection by Forest Service personnel and educational programs for campers. He estimated that a camping population of 16 million Americans required one and a half million acres devoted to campgrounds or one-tenth of an acre per each camper. By 1933, 1,800 campgrounds existed within the national forests and 2,300 additional sites were needed to accommodate this demand (Marshall 1930; West 1992: 54; see also Kneipp 1931: 9-11; Steen 1976: 210; Coffman 1937: 210-14; Morse 1933: 302-07).

The Forest Service Recreational Program Implemented by the CCC

The National Forest Service became increasingly involved in recreational planning on the forests during the Depression Era. The Civilian Conservation Corps labor and additional funding provided through the New Deal permitted the agency to accelerate its recreation as well as its conservation program. Marshall's recreational segment of the Copeland Report which endorsed a unified and permanent commitment to recreation by the Forest Service provided the guidelines to rapidly implement this development. In 1935, his recommendations resulted in the hiring of a landscape architect, Ernest E. Walker, to the Washington office and in a nation-wide study of recreation in the National Forest conducted under the auspices of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). President of the ASLA, Albert Taylor, conducted and reported the results of the study. He noted that a portion of the regional Forest Service offices lacked professionally trained landscape architects and recreational specialist to produce recreation and landscape designs for forest development. The Forest Service thus possessed an inadequate recreation staff to guide forest development during the most active years of the CCC program between 1933 and 1935. The reorganization of the Forest Service in November, 1935 created the Division of Recreation and Lands with regional staff trained in recreational planning and design. The North Central Regional Office in Milwaukee hired its professional staff by 1936 (Steen 1976: 209, 213; Tweed 1980: 16-20).

The Washington office of the Division of Recreation and Lands finally hired a director capable of implementing this directive with the appointment of Robert Marshall in May, 1937. Between November, 1935 and May, 1937, the regional

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offices provided the recreational planning and design for forest development. Prior to 1935, many of these offices designed relatively simple structures and buildings. Repeating his visits to the forests in 1936, Albert Taylor observed that the regional offices emphasized quantity rather than quality of design. He recommended the preparation of designs for recreation facilities in a central Washington office. In his 1936 report, Taylor cited the numerous types of recreational projects completed during 1935 and 1936 in the regional offices. In 1935, the Forest Service had broadened the scope of recreational planning and design beyond simple campground sites, ranger cabins, and privies to include bathhouses, shelters, amphitheaters, and playgrounds. Rather than simply concentrating on isolated facilities, the Forest Service began to prepare more integrated designs including, for example, campgrounds, picnic shelters, bathhouse and public beach, nature trails, and a system of drinking fountains in one recreational area. Thus, during Marshall's tenure as the director of the Division of Recreation and Lands, recreation development received considerable emphasis (Kylie, Hieronymus, and Hall 1937: 279-91; Tweed 1980: 20-24; West 1992: 54; Arnold 1935: 662-67).

A 1932 study found the northeast Wisconsin counties particularly well suited for recreational development. It cited the cool, healthful summers, scenic attractions created by the numerous bodies of water, and the recreational opportunities including bathing, boating, and fishing. The tourist industry had grown rapidly in the area since the 1920s. Despite the Depression, this usage continued to rise in the 1930s. Tourism was becoming a vital part of the local economy (Wehrwein and Parsons 1932). By 1935-1937, the addition of facilities by the Forest Service through CCC projects not only enhanced forest usage in these counties but assisted the development of tourism in adjacent communities. In this period, the CCC planted trees on the Oconto Unit of the national forest, constructed truck and fire roads, laid and maintained forest telephone lines, participated in game management, fought forest fires, conducted land surveys, erected lookout towers, and constructed administrative and recreational improvements including camp and picnic facilities, at least one of which included swimming facilities, forest service ranger headquarters, and additional buildings for Forest Service operation of the forests (Oconto County Reporter 1935 [12/12: 1/6]; Gillett Times 1936 [6/25: 1/2]; Cohen 1980: 88-89; Pager 1983: 13; CCC Sixth Corps Area 1937). CCC recreational development on the forests adjacent to Mountain in 1937 included the picnic ground at Weber Lake and similar facilities at nearby Boot Lake (Gillett Times 1936 [6/25: 1/2]; Wolff 1993).

The Mountain CCC Camp

Forest Service Mountain Camp F-19 became home to at least two CCC companies and occupied two locations. Company 1695 established Camp Mountain on June 23, 1933 one and a half miles northwest of Mountain in the northeast quarter of section 4, township 31 north, range 16 east. Initially a tent camp, six permanent barracks and other buildings were soon constructed at the camp by November, 1933. Between 1933 and 1936, this company engaged in such work projects as forest stand improvement, land surveying, stream improvement, road side cleanup, fighting and prevention of forest fires, forestation, blister rust control, stream

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improvement, the restocking of fish, the laying of telephone lines, construction and maintenance of truck trails, rodent control, landscaping, and the building of lookout towers, vehicle bridges, cabins, garages, woodsheds, latrines, safety signs, oil houses, and at least twelve public camps. As part of the CCC camp reduction program of early 1936, Company 1695 abandoned the camp on January 16, 1936. On June 19, 1936, Camp Lakewood 1653 moved to the Camp Mountain site one-and-one-half miles northwest of Mountain. This camp continued many of its former projects which paralleled those completed by Company 1695. Between June and October, 1936, the camp improved 40 acres of public picnic grounds and 40 acres of public campgrounds. By October, 1936, the CCC established a craft shop at Mountain to serve Region 9. Men constructed models of activities and work completed by the Forest Service through CCC labor as part of a public information program. Twenty to twenty-five enrollees chosen particularly for this work project were selected from the Sparta District to work in the craft shop. During the evenings, enrollees at the camp also pursued their own projects at the shop. During July through September of this year, one work project specifically involved the development of recreational facilities. In 1941, the company was responsible for the maintenance of four adjacent recreational sites. By June, 1940, the CCC moved Camp Mountain seven and a half miles from the former camp to a site one mile west of Mountain. The CCC abandoned Camp Mountain on May 22, 1942 (CCC 1933-42 [records of Camp F-19, Companies 1695 and 1653]; Gillett Times 1936 [6/25: 1/2]; Oconto County Reporter 1936 [1/16: 1/6]; CCC Sixth Corps Area 1937; USDA Forest Service 1937b).

The Building of the Weber Lake Picnic Ground and Shelter

Camp Mountain constructed the Weber Lake Picnic Ground facilities in 1937. Since the Forest Service did not acquire the property donation from the Town of Armstrong until June 8, 1937, the CCC built the picnic ground after that date (USDA Forest Service 1937a [6/8, land records]). It followed a type 50 shelter plan drawn in 1935 (USDA Forest Service 1935). The camp reports for July and September of 1937 list the construction of recreational facilities but fail to indicate the location of the work (Civilian Conservation Corps 1933-43 [records of Camp F-19, Companies 1695 and 1653]). The company constructed the picnic ground shelter utilizing local materials including cedar and pine, cleared the beach along the lake in front of the shelter, and added sand to the beach as late as the winter of 1937. Located at Camp Mountain during the construction of the shelter, CCC LEM carpenter Clarence Way, an experienced blacksmith, carpenter, and mason, crafted the original benches and the masonry fireplace and chimney and perhaps the wrought iron letters and hinges with their attached decorative trees. Way also constructed picnic tables which no longer remain. The craft shop at Camp Mountain may have provided the facilities to produce these items. Charles J. Vogt served as the project's foreman. During the 1937 construction, the CCC also erected a comfort station and stone fireplaces which are now replaced (Nicolet News 1985 (63): 7-10; 1988 (91) [by William Wolff]; Wolff 1993).

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter is of local significance under criterion A as a resource that is closely associated with the effects of the Depression Era federal work programs on the Nicolet National Forest. The CCC erected the Weber

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Lake Picnic Ground Shelter in 1937, during a period of accelerated recreational development in the national forests. Characteristic of this later period of development, the shelter was not designed as an isolated recreational feature but as part of a complete site development plan that incorporated several interrelated design elements including the shelter with bathhouse, swimming beach, picnic tables, fireplaces, and a comfort station. Construction projects such as this were among the important works of federal New Deal programs and the resources that resulted are now of importance as visible reminders of this period of change in public works policy. The significance of the shelter and its setting are enhanced by the overall integrity level of the shelter.

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Area of Significance: Architecture

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter gains significance in the area of architecture as a representation of the Rustic Style of architecture. The design provided by the National Forest Service for the shelter, shelter design No. 50 (USDA Forest Service 1935), was commonly constructed by the CCC in the early and mid-1930s. Most of the Depression Era resources constructed by the National Forest Service and the National Park Service within the national parks and forests under the work relief programs followed this style.

The Rustic Style guided the design of park buildings, structures, and landscaping in national parks and forests from 1916 through the Depression Era in the 1930s and early 1940s. The Rustic Style was a national level movement which provided guidelines for the construction of park facilities in the national and state parks and forests. The style was adapted by the National Park Service for the design of its facilities and adopted by the National Forest Service by the Depression Era. Although the National Park Service did not create the Rustic Style, it did expand the concepts of the Rustic Style as it erected park buildings and structures. The principles reflected by the Rustic Style meshed with those on which the New Deal relief programs were based. Both required intensive labor. The large work crews necessary to provide materials, complete the stone work, and process and set the timbers as well as the amount and level of expertise required to supervise construction was financially possible only through such work programs of the 1930s and early 1940s (Missouri Department of Natural Resources 1984).

Buildings erected on the national parks prior to the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916 were generally make-shift ones in which concessionaires provided services. At this time, the Department of the Army patrolled the national parks. Railroad companies contributed the first major development associated with the national parks in the 1890s and during the first decade of the twentieth century. Providing transportation and accommodations for tourists, the railroads erected elaborate hotels following the prevalent Classical Revival Style. Between 1900 and 1910 as the railroad searched for an appropriate style to service their guests, landscape architects began to exert an influence on building design. In an essentially reactionary manner, they drew inspiration from the works of A.J. Downing who had designed picturesque landscapes and dwellings in the middle of the preceding century and from Frederick Law Olmstead who also reinforced the tie between architecture and the landscape. Both their designs called for natural materials native to the surrounding environment. The building form was apart of the overall building site so that landscaping formed an integral part of the whole.

The designs for the buildings railroad company's built adjacent to or in western parks between 1900 and 1910 went further. Every element of their construction including the massing and detailing attempted to harmonize the building with its surrounding. Ornament for its own sake was avoided. Architects heavily employed textural richness based on the juxtaposition of materials and shapes. These park buildings thus combined a romantic and naturalistic philosophy. Because the buildings were to blend with the natural setting, the design of these park

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buildings also varied by region. Thus, forms varied from southwestern pueblos to the Swiss style in the Rocky Mountains. These concepts heavily influenced the development of Rustic Style by the National Park Service after its formation in 1916 (Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 3-16).

The National Park Service began to formulate its own architectural guidelines in 1918. It retained the harmony of man-made improvements with the natural landscapes. Director Stephen Mather required the consultation of numerous professionals including landscape architects and engineers as well as architects to create a master plan for each park project. The Rustic Style matured quickly in the national parks during the early 1920s and climaxed in 1925 with the construction of Ahwahnee, a five-story, irregular plan stone hotel built against the mountains of Yosemite National Park. It was a structurally modern building with a veneer of stone and logs to retain its romantic aspect. Its tall massing was specifically adopted to the mountainous region. As funding improved through the later half of the 1920s, the National Park Service elaborated but did not alter its vision of the Rustic Style. The funding level and expanded building program continued from its high point in 1927 through the Hoover Administration under the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932. The National Park Service followed a six-year development program begun in 1931. Each plan for landscaping and building was tailored to the park's region and each park's specific physical features. Essentially competing for development funds with the Park Service, the Forest Service also adopted this approach to park design (Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 23-26, 44-48, 74). Thus, this style reached maturity before the commencement of CCC park development of the 1930s.

The Rustic Style of the 1930s continued to express the design principals set in the preceding decades. Man-made resources were to be non-intrusive producing building forms which were inconspicuous and harmonious with their natural setting. To achieve this quality, the impact of building construction on the environment was minimized (Ahlgren 1987: 28; 1988; Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 63, 77). Design simplicity and the use of native materials became correlates of this principle. Simplicity of design was also suited to the limited skills of the available work force, the CCC enrolles (U.S. Federal Works Agency 1946: 52). Because each region was characterized by different environmental factors, design had to be specific to the region if not the park (Good 1938 (1): 1-3; Ahlgren 1987: 30; Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 55).

The Rustic Style possessed historical allusions through the use of the locale's pioneer building techniques and materials. The buildings and structures in each park were to represent or allude to a unified historical theme. The style thus retained some ties to the romantic movement from which it emerged. It also represented a reaction to the growing urbanism as did the establishment of the parks themselves. Visitors escaped from the cities into nature and the past (Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: i, 94, 104; Ahlgren 1977: 28-29).

This theme of regional cultural context as part of non-intrusive architecture would grow to include not only cabins, but also Indian pueblos, Spanish colonial adobes, and New England colonial frame structures (Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 35).

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But, contrasting with the outlook of settlers, the philosophy of the Rustic Style continued to emphasize a respect for nature. Construction was not to overly scar the landscape. Albert Good (1938 (1): 5) who advocated its use and provided three volumes of park designs for the National Park Service espoused the prevailing philosophy stating that the Rustic Style

...through the avoidance of severely straight lines and oversophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past. The scale of structural elements must be reduced proportionately as ruggedness and scale of the surroundings diminish.

Finally, all landscape and architectural design was to be guided by a master plan. The designer then assessed the park's physical setting and its scientific, historical, and archaeological values including its wildlife capacities and recreational possibilities during the planning stage. This approach allowed unity of design assuring that buildings, structures, and landscapes reflected similar themes and blended the man-made environment with the landscape. Each built element contributed to the whole plan (Ahlgren 1987: 9, 22, 27, 80). This master plan specified the building form, materials, and the arrangement as well as the system of roads, trails, steps, benches, and other landscape features in proper relation to the natural landscape such as the wooded and open areas, the rock formations, and other vegetation forms. Such planning reduced the clutter of minor buildings by combining functions but was not to produce overly large, intrusive buildings (Ahlgren 1987: 186; Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 2). For example, a loose, uncrowded group of heavily used public buildings was placed in a service area rather than scattered across the park thereby reducing the impact on the environment. The utility area containing maintenance buildings occurred near to but was screened from the service area. Recreational areas receiving heavy use such as cabin, camping, bathing or picnicking areas were also placed in well-defined areas in their appropriate setting. Development for more extensively defined recreation such as hiking trails, trail shelters, and riding trails was to remain sensitive to the landscape. To fulfill their role, park facilities were to provide an inconspicuous access to landscape features valued for visitor use (Good 1938 (1): 8). Hence, the clustering of bathhouse and beach area, campground, and amphitheater disturbed a single, concentrated area.

From the principles of the Rustic Style, including harmony of the built environment with the landscape, unity of historical theme, and master planning, guidelines for park development specific to each region were derived. Forested areas of the Midwest possessed their specific qualities some of which were shared with other regions. The impact of site construction was minimized by the use of hand labor when feasible. The blending of man-made resources with the landscape was achieved through the use of native materials such as timber and stone. The CCC enrollees frequently took the building materials from the surrounding area and processed them by hand to leave natural imperfections such as rough edges and knots in the wood. But, logs were stripped of their bark to aid preservation. Buildings and structures were proportionately scaled to the environment. Rough

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stone was often used as a veneer to conceal modern building materials. Low, horizontal lines tied the building to the landscape as did coloring with grays and warm browns, the placement of native plantings near the foundation, the use of vegetation as a screen, the construction of battered or buttressed walls, and the use of rough stone foundations to ease the transition from the surroundings upward. Severely straight lines were avoided in favor of irregular, "...wavering, free-hand lines" (Good 1938 (1): 8). Regularity of shape was avoided. Materials were placed in their natural position so that stone was laid paralleling its bedding plane. The size of the stones decreased from base to top to ensure a stable appearance. Relatively large timbers covered by heavy shakes often composed exposed roof elements. They were to be heavy and durable to harmonize with the usually heavy building walls (Ahlgren 1987: 5, 56; 1988; Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 30, 35, 54, 71, 93-94).

The use of a single stylistic theme throughout the park presented a less obtrusive presence and achieved unity of design. One theme required the use of fewer construction methods and a smaller variety of materials in CCC construction (Good 1938 (1): 8). Simplicity of design with limited, simple ornament allowed each building to harmonize with its surrounding (Ahlgren 1988: 202-03). Any visible decorative detailing often follow the American Craftsman Style (1900-1930) introduced by Gustave Strickley. Often found on Bungalows in the Midwest, such buildings vaguely paralleled the principles of the Rustic Style. Utilizing largely rectilinear motifs, the style was simple in detailing; used brick, stone or stucco; and had broad, low gables, low massing, and large dormers. Decorative details included exposed rafters, purlins, knee braces, king posts, collar beams, tie beams, and additional elaboration in the peak of the roof; brackets; a dominating dormer; and enclosed porches (Gottfried and Jennings 1985: 140, 186, 222-23; U.S. Federal Works Agency 1946).

The Civilian Conservation Corps and other federal work relief agencies extensively employed the Rustic Style during the 1930s. To cope with the volume of design work required by the large number of projects and maintain the principles of the Rustic Style in their buildings, the Branch of Planning and Design of the National Park Service developed publications to guide design and materials selection. It published Albert Good's 1935 Park Structures and Facilities which was expanded to the three volume edition of 1938 (Good 1938; Ahlgren 1987: 27; Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977: 93). Although Good advocated the use of master planning, his designs were presented by function rather than as a part of a park plan. These individual designs were to be combined with attention to unity of materials, construction techniques, form, style, and thematic relationship to suit the environment and needs of a particular park (Good 1938). Coming at the end of the era rather than at the beginning, Good's publication summarized the recent work in Rustic park architecture. Plans for the recreational facilities from the regional offices of the National Forest Service and later the Washington office adopted similar designs.

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter exhibits many of the principles advocated by Good (1938 (2): 45-72). Good describes this functional park building type, the picnic shelter, as one providing a roof against the sun and rain. It is generally open with one or more walls sheltering the user from the prevailing

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weather. The shelter often contains a large fireplace and may accommodate additional functions such as a concession, public comfort stations, or custodial storage. The combination bathhouse and shelter appears to be less common although other examples are found in the Nicolet National Forest at, for example, Franklin Lake Campground and Anvil Lake Campground, both in Vilas County. The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter is intended as a primitive building constructed of logs, random rubble stone fireplace and chimney, stone curbing at the foundation, and wrought iron door hardware and detailing along the chimney. It displays a low, horizontal aspect with its broad roof and wide overhang, low height, bold use of building elements, and unobtrusive position adjacent to the woods rather than in the center of the opening. The use of native materials including timber and native stone continues the non-intrusive design and provides a historical link to the area's past. It relies on the placement of materials and exposed interior and exterior structural elements for its decorative embellishment including roof supports, rafters, and purlins. Despite the shelter's rustic appearance, its design displays a sense of order common to the style. The chimney is centered along its end wall. The three doors are evenly distributed along the bathhouse elevation. Building elements are evenly spaced.

While the existing shelter follows plan No. 50 quite closely, some important variations do appear. They may be in part either a function of the two year interval between its design and construction and reflect the growth of the style. Or, they may simply reflect the foreman's approach to building the shelter. The plans for the Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter show unmilled logs with a less finished appearance and overlapping corners jointed by saddle notching rather than flush corners secured by a corner post. As the second half of the 1930s progressed, the Rustic style park buildings became more refined and less rough in appearance. This change occurred rather subtly during these five years (Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977). The example at Weber Lake may represent an evolving version of the Rustic Style or simply an individual approach to shelter construction. Good's Park and Recreation Structures (1935 (2): 45-72) does not illustrate precisely this treatment. The corners of some shelters are flush but not finished with corner posts and materials are generally rougher and proportionately larger in appearance.

In form and materials, the Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter is similar to several other shelters within the Nicolet National Forest. The log combination picnic shelter and bathhouse at the Anvil Lake Campground ten miles east of Eagle River, Vilas County, resembles the Weber Lake example very closely. The shelter portion is partially enclosed with horizontal log walls, a massive, fieldstone chimney rises along one side elevation, and the bathhouse portion occupies the other end. However, rather than being flush and finished with a corner post, the corners are overhung and secured with saddle notching. The broad, gable roof is widely overhung and supported by exposed elements. The concrete footings lack the stone curbing, the interior remains unfinished, and a broad, stone fireplace occupies the center of the end wall. Door hardware is wrought iron. The Anvil Lake Campground Shelter exhibits a similar high level of integrity to the Weber Lake Picnic Shelter.

The Franklin Lake Campground and Recreational Facility located between Butternut

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and Franklin lakes about two-and-a-half miles southeast of Anvil Lake in Vilas County, includes two shelters. The campground was entered in the National Register in 1988. Erected in 1936, this building is a combination bathhouse and shelter. Unlike the other two shelters, however, the Franklin Lake shelter includes two levels. The front elevation of the upper level (the picnic shelter) is at ground level, while the main elevation of the bathhouse below opens in the opposite direction. Horizontal, rounded logs compose the partial walls of the upper level which rest on a high rubble stone foundation which surrounds the lower level or bathhouse portion. Like the Anvil Lake Campground Shelter, the log corners are overhung and secured with saddle notching. A broad, asphalt shingle-clad gable roof with wide, overhanging eaves covers the building. An exposed, massive, fieldstone chimney rises along the center of each end. Structural elements are exposed and the interior is unfinished and dominated by the two large fireplaces. Built in 1938, the second shelter does not include a bathhouse and occupies a single level. It is composed of overlapping, saddle-notched, horizontal logs placed on a concrete footing and covered with an asphalt shingle-clad, gable roof with broad overhang. Random rubble stone chimneys are located on both end elevations. With the exception of the sliding doors across the multiple entrances, the shelter is similar in design, materials, and massing to the others (National Register Nomination 1988).

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter represents one of four similar shelters and one of three shelter/bathhouse combinations identified within the Nicolet National Forest. They all display high levels of integrity. Alterations to the Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter are few including replacement of the roofing, the replacement of one log bench, and the loss of the wrought iron tree along the chimney. Modifications to the immediate setting include the addition of a sign and bench and the replacement of stone or log curbing with railroad ties along the edge of the beach. More substantial alterations have occurred just beyond the project boundaries including the recent replacement of the comfort station and the addition or modification of the parking lot area. Thus, because the shelter follows a relatively common form for its locale, it gains significance at the local level.

The Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter thus gains significance under criteria A and C in the areas of government and architecture. This recreational building represents the climax of the slow incorporation of recreation planning into National Forest Service activities. Until the completion of the Copeland Report, such development by the Forest Service remained haphazard and controversial. The rapid influx of recreational monies into the Forest Service budget and the provision of a large, CCC labor force during the New Deal era resulted in the implementation of the report's recommendations beginning in 1933. This recreational development gained momentum in 1935 which resulted in the creation of the Division of Recreation and Lands in 1937. The Weber Lake Picnic Ground is a somewhat more complex Forest Service recreational development of the type that was more common to the second half of the 1930s. Built in the summer and/or fall of 1937, the period and date of significance, the shelter was erected during the two years in which the Forest Service finally gave form to its recreational development plans. The shelter displays the elements of the Rustic Style, a very common architectural style for Depression Era park buildings. This style was

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non-intrusive, blending the building with its natural setting. Use of this style and of a similar shelter building form also occurred at the Anvil Lake Campground and the Franklin Lake Campground, both within the Nicolet National Forest. These examples also possess high physical integrity. Because the Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter represents one of several intact examples of the same style and type within the Nicolet National Forest, it gains significance at the local level.

1. Nicolet News 1985: 63: 7-11 [by William Wolff]; Wolff 1993; USDA National Forest Service 1935 [plans]; USDA Forest Service 1937a [land records, 6/8/37]

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter form an approximate rectangle running between a line parallel with and 10 feet southwest of the shelter and the edge of beach to the northeast and a line parallel with and 23 feet southeast of the southeast elevation of the shelter and a line parallel with and 35 feet northwest of the northwest elevation of the shelter.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Weber Lake Picnic Ground shelter include the shelter, the beach also improved by the CCC, and the immediate landscaping between the two. Although modified by the addition of recent objects including a sign and bench, this area represents the immediately adjacent property modified by the CCC when constructing the shelter and clearing the beach. The Rustic Style was to blend into the immediate landscaping of the building. Disruption by construction was to be returned as closely as possible to its natural state. Thus, the immediate landscaping of the shelter is an important element in the overall design of the shelter. And, the boundaries exclude recent modifications: the parking lot and comfort station to the northwest.

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Photographic Documentation

Property: Weber Lake Picnic Ground Shelter
Location: Mountain, Oconto County, Wisconsin
Photographer: Joyce McKay
Date: October 16, 1994
Negative Location: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Photographic Description:

1. The shelter in its immediate setting taken from a location near the beach facing southwest toward the shelter (2a).
2. The beach area northeast of the shelter taken north of the shelter facing southeast (1a).
3. The northeast and southeast elevations of the shelter facing west (5a).
4. The northwest and southwest elevations of the shelter facing south (6a).
5. The fireplace along the interior, northwest wall of the shelter facing north (8a).
6. The log benches along an interior southeast wall of the shelter facing southeast (9a).