

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

REGISTER

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM**

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

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

DEPRESSION-ERA USDA FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXES ON THE MEDICINE BOW NATIONAL FOREST

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

Development of the USDA Forest Service as a Land Management Agency, Circa 1860 to the Early 1940s.  
Contribution of the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Development of the USDA Forest Service During the Depression-Era  
  
Depression-Era USDA Forest Service Rustic Architecture, As Expressed on the Medicine Bow National Forest.

**C. Geographical Data**

The geographical area encompasses the Medicine Bow National Forests within the Rocky Mountain Region (R-2), USDA Forest Service including the Brush Creek, Douglas, and Laramie Ranger Districts (Figure 1).

**D. Certification**

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

Walter O. DeBlois 2/9/94  
Signature and title of certifying official Date  
Forest Service Federal Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature] 4/11/94  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register Date

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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### Summary

Historic contexts for this multiple property nomination cover three broad areas including: (1) Development of the USDA Forest Service as a land management agency, Circa 1860 to the early 1940s; (2) Contribution of the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Development of the USDA Forest Service during the Depression-era; and (3) USDA Forest Service rustic architecture, as expressed on the Medicine Bow National Forest during the Depression-era.

USDA Forest Service administrative sites built during the Depression-era on the Medicine Bow National Forest represent the change of the Forest Service management mission from custodial superintendence to active resource management, and reflect the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in this change. Individual properties may also be significant for local associations as well. These properties are representative of the Depression-era Forest Service rustic architectural style and exhibit a high level of craftsmanship as produced by CCC crews.

### Development of the USDA Forest Service as a Land Management Agency, Circa 1860 to the Early 1940s

The evolution of the USDA Forest Service can be divided into three broad periods or stages including (1) the Formative Period (1860 to 1904); (2) the Custodial Superintendence Period (1905 to 1929); and (3) the Active Resource Management Period (1930 to 1940s). During the Formative Period conservation of forested lands and watersheds became a central theme in the development of federal land management policies. The science of forestry was also in its infancy. Divisions of forestry were established in the departments of Agriculture and Interior for the purpose of implementing new federal land management policies. The Forest Service as an agency did not exist during the Formative Period, however, developments in federal land management policy at this time served as the foundation for the evolution of the Forest Service in later years.

Westward expansion during the 19th century resulted in the acquisition of millions of acres of public land by the United States government. In conjunction with this expansion the young nation struggled with the need to develop land management policies at the local, state, and federal levels. To deal with the vast tracks of public land congress created the General Land Office in 1812, the Department of Interior in 1849, and the Department of Agriculture in 1862.

Early on individuals from both the private and public sectors expressed concern over the need to protect natural resources including water and timber within the public domain. This concern was articulated by Secretary of Interior Columbus Delano in 1874 who reported on the "rapid destruction of timber", especially on public land (Steen 1976:7). In his report Delano argued that protective legislation was absolutely necessary to protect public interests. The Conservation Movement gained momentum during the late 1800s and was highlighted by publication of "Man and Nature" in 1864 by George Perkins Marsh. In this landmark publication Marsh warned readers of environmental deterioration and lectured on ethics of land use. In the late 1880s, a series of federal reports from forestry divisions within Interior and Agriculture warned of dwindling timber supplies (Steen 1976).

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An important landmark in the development of the public forestry management was the hiring of Bernhard E. Fernow as chief of division of forestry within the Department of Agriculture on March 15, 1886. Fernow raised consciousness of timber resources and promoted legislation which established forest reserves. The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 (24 Stat. 100, 103), established Forest Reserves within the Department of Interior, for the purpose of protecting watersheds and providing the country with a continuous supply of timber. Further legislation such as the Pettigrew Amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriations Bill of 1897 (30 Stat. 11, 34) now commonly referred to as the Organic Act, provided federal funding to acquire forest lands and authority to manage these reserves.

The Custodial Superintendence Period, (roughly 1905 to 1929) saw the development of the Forest Service as a land management agency. The primary mission of the agency was acquisition and consolidation of forest lands, protection of watersheds, fire suppression, and monitoring of public uses such as livestock grazing, mining, and timber harvest activities.

The year 1905 was a benchmark in the evolution of the Forest Service as a land management agency. During this year the forest reserves program was transferred from the Department of Interior to the Department of Agriculture and subsequently renamed the Forest Service. The first Forest Service manual, the Use Book, was published in 1905. The mission of the Forest Service was summarized in this manual as "Forest Reserves are for the purpose of preserving a perpetual supply of timber for home industries, preventing destruction of the forest cover which regulates the flow of streams, and protecting local residents from unfair competition in the use of forest and range" (Use Book 1905:7).

By 1907 the Forest Service clearly entered the era of Conservation and Resource Stewardship under the direction of Chief Gifford Pinchot. Forest Reserves were renamed as National Forests. In addition the Forest Service conservation mandate emphasized watershed protection, elimination of destructive logging techniques, regeneration of cut-over timber, slash disposal, and fire protection (Sullivan et al. 1989).

During the early years, the District Ranger served as the primary field representative for the agency. A small number of men were responsible for monitoring large tracts of land, usually from horseback. Most were specialists in forestry or

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range management and many were the product of a practical education as ranchers or timber men (Bruce 1959). District Rangers were primarily responsible for monitoring timber sales and grazing permits, and leading fire suppression programs.

Custodial superintendence of Forest Lands continued throughout the teens and early 1920s (Steen 1976:110). The Weeks Law of 1911 (36 Stat. 961), authorized federal purchase of lands in watersheds of navigable streams, and matching funds for conservation programs administered by state forestry agencies. The Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 (43 Stat. 653) expanded the Weeks Law, allowing purchase of forest lands outside of watersheds of navigable streams.

The decade of the 1920s was characterized by increased use of forest lands as the country became more mobile and industrialized (Sullivan et al. 1989). The advent of the automobile brought recreationists to the National Forests in record numbers. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge convened the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation. In June of that same year the first wilderness area was established on the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. In 1935 the Forest Service organized the Division of Recreation (Steen 1976:209).

Pressure from natural resource extraction, and the need to actively manage these resources was also building. In 1920 the Capper Report demonstrated timber depletion was causing record high prices (Sullivan et al. 1989:E4). In response, the Forest Service re-evaluated its program and began cooperative programs for fire protection and reforestation (Steen 1976). The McSweeney-McNary Act (45 Stat. 468), of 1928 authorized a forest research program including a forest survey. The Knutson-Vanberg Act (45 Stat. 527), of 1930 authorized funds for reforestation of national forests.

The period between 1929 and the early 1940s can be tentatively labeled as the Active Resource Management Period. The change to active land management was accelerated by the public works programs of the Depression-era, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program in particular. Through the years, use of public lands expanded, particularly in the area of recreation. Federal work programs such as the CCC were instrumental in building roads and recreational facilities.

The 1930s clearly marked the transition from the early years of custodial superintendence to active resource management. In 1932 a comprehensive study known as the Copeland Report, evaluated the condition of Forests and their resources (Sullivan et al. 1989). The report, entitled A National Plan for American Forestry, evaluated many aspects of forestry including timber, water, range, recreation, wildlife, research, state aid, and fire protection. The concept of multiple use management appeared for the first time in this report (Steen 1976:202). This "New Deal blue print for forestry" emphasized more active management of all Forest resources, and marked the shift in policy from custodial superintendence to active resource management for the Forest Service (Sullivan et al. 1989:E5). Passage of the

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Taylor Grazing Act (48 Stat. 1269), in 1934 required the Secretary of Interior to establish 80 million acres of grazing districts in unreserved public domain. While the actual number of livestock grazing on public land was significantly lower than at the turn of the century, the need to administer grazing allotments had increased significantly.

The change in policy and management practices of the Forest Service required an increase in personnel and facilities. New roads, administrative sites, and campgrounds were needed in order to meet new demands on Forest lands including reforestation, fire suppression, range management, and recreation. Fortunately the Copeland Report coincided with the establishment of the New Deal programs. These programs, especially the CCC provided the means for the Forest Service to upgrade it's facilities infrastructure and enter the new period of active resource management.

By the time the United States entered World War II in 1941 the Forest Service had changed dramatically from its formative years. The legacy of the CCC and other New Deal programs was the new infrastructure of roads, administrative buildings, and recreation facilities which enabled the Forest Service to enter the period of extensive land management programs and implement its new policy of "Multiple Use". This change in management policy culminated many years later in the passage of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act (74 Stat. 215), in 1960. Under this Act the Forest Service was directed to give equal consideration to outdoor recreation, range, timber, water, and wildlife and fish.

The Medicine Bow Forest Reserve was created on May 22, 1902. The eastern and western boundaries were approximated those of the present day Brush Creek and Laramie Districts. The northern boundary was south of where it is today, and the southern boundary extended down into Colorado about through present day Estes Park (Bruce 1959:1). The supervisors office was first located in Saratoga, Wyoming, and the first supervisor was Captain Lewis G. Davis, a hereford breeder from Saratoga. The initial staff included Assistant Ranger John Reid, Deputy Ranger John H. Mullison, and Forest Ranger James Blackhall. Mullison and Blackhall would figure prominently in the role of the Medicine Bow National Forest in regional and local history for years to come (Medicine Bow Collection).

In 1908 the Forest was divided with the Colorado portion named the Medicine Bow Forest, and the Wyoming portion, including the Cow Creek Reserve, named the Cheyenne National Forest. Two years later the Colorado portion became known as the Colorado National Forest and the Cheyenne National Forest became the Medicine Bow National Forest which represents approximately two-fifths of the Medicine Bow Forest today (Thybonny et al. 1985:47). Through the years administrative boundaries have changed with great regularity. Ranger Districts have included Centennial, Fox Park, Keystone, Brush Creek, Bow River, Encampment, Snake River, La Bonte, La Prele, and Pole Mountain (Armstrong 1935; Van: personal communication).

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The Medicine Bow National Forest is now administered through four ranger districts including the Laramie, Brush Creek, Douglas, and Hayden Districts. The Laramie District was formed from the Centennial, Pole Mountain, and Fox Park Districts. The Brush Creek District was formed from the old Brush Creek and Bow River Districts (Thybonny et al 1985:47). The Hayden District was formed from the Snake and Encampment Districts. The Douglas District includes the former La Prele and La Bonte Districts.

The Pole Mountain Division was first established as the Cow Creek Forest Reserve in 1900 by President McKinnley. Eventually it was combined with Wyoming portions of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Over the years, parts or all of the division were controlled by the War Department and used as the Ft. D.A. Russell Target and Maneuver Reservation (Medicine Bow Collection). The Pole Mountain District was established by 1925 and now is administered by the Laramie District in Laramie, Wyoming.

The Laramie Peak Division was added to the Medicine Bow National Forest in 1935 by an act of congress (Thybonny 1985:102). Settlement of the area began early on as a result of the 1916 Homestead Law. The Division was previously administered as the La Bonte and La Prele Districts of the Laramie Peak Division of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Today the area is administered by the Douglas Ranger District, with headquarters in Douglas, Wyoming.

The Sierra Madre Forest Reserve was created in in 1906 and initially administered by the Medicine Bow National Forest. In 1908 the Sierra Madre became the Hayden National Forest with its own administrative staff (Bruce 1959:ix). The Hayden was named for Dr. F.V. Hayden, head of the U.S. Geological Survey in the rocky Mountain area. In August of 1929 the Hayden National Forest lost its Colorado portion and became the Hayden Division of the of the Medicine Bow National Forest with it's District office in Encampment, Wyoming.

The Thunder Basin National Grassland was the final parcel of land acquired by the Medicine Bow. The area had been administered by a number of federal agencies including the Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Agriculture beginning in 1934. The area received National Grassland status in 1961 and was consolidated within the Douglas Ranger District in 1987.

Today the Medicine Bow National Forest encompasses 1,665,860 acres, including 572, 518 acres on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. The Forest is administered through four Ranger Districts including Brush Creek, Douglas, Hayden, and Laramie (Figure 1). The Supervisors Office is located in Laramie, Wyoming.

The Medicine Bow National Forest contains a number of historic administrative sites constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, including ranger stations and guard stations. These structures represent the expanding role of the Forest Service in natural resource management during the 1930s. They evoke a sense of history of the development of the Forest Service through the years and its relationship to the public on a local, regional, and national level.

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Contribution of the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Development of the USDA Forest Service During the Depression-Era.

With the stock market crash of 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression, a number of fundamental changes occurred in the political and social fabric of the United States (Garraty 1986). Chronic problems for the nation included the dislocation and unemployed status of a large percentage of the American population. At the same time the Nation was beginning to see the effects of years of natural resource exploitation including soil erosion and timber stock depletion, particularly on National Forest lands (Throop 1984). In addition, use of public lands, particularly for recreation, was increasing rapidly. The Forest Service was in need of improved roads systems and new facilities in order to meet the expanding needs in natural resource management and recreation.

In response to these and other problems, the Roosevelt administration enacted a number of public works programs, popularly referred to as the New Deal. The best known of these programs was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was instrumental in the change of USDA Forest Service land management policy from a custodial role to an active resource management role (Sullivan et al. 1989; Throop 1984). This program provided the work force to construct facilities needed for the new era of Forest Service land management practices and expanding public use of Forest lands. The CCC efforts resulted in a large amount of beneficial and lasting work on the Medicine Bow National Forest (Medicine Bow Collection).

In March 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps was created by Congress under the Unemployment Relief Act. The CCC was one of the most popular of the President Roosevelt's New Deal agencies, providing employment for almost 3,000,000 young men during the program's existence from 1933 through 1942 (Grasso et al. 1982:283). The program was designed to provide economic relief. Enrollees were given a \$30/month check of which all but \$5.00 were sent directly to the enrollees dependents living in the city. In 1933 a promotion system was implemented under which 10 group leaders in each camp received \$45 monthly, and sixteen lieutenants in each camp received \$36 monthly (Cheyenne Tribune 5/20/33). Thus funds were circulated to urban centers.

The CCC was administered by an Advisory Council composed of representatives for the Secretaries of War, Labor, Agriculture, and Interior. The U.S. Army was responsible for administration of the CCC camps and the mobilization of CCC recruits. The Department of Labor, through its state and local relief programs, was responsible for selection and enrollment of applicants. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior planned and organized the work projects to be conducted.

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Enrollees entered the CCC program for a six month period and could re-enter for up to two years. The program was voluntary, although several requirements existed. Enrollment was limited to unemployed men who were United States citizens. Specifically, the CCC sought ambitious, hard working young men who were unmarried and willing to allot most of their monthly pay checks to dependents. The age limit fluctuated with time but was initially 18-25, then 18-35 in 1935, 17-28 in 1937 and finally 17-23 years of age (Grasso et al. 1982:284)

During the peak years of 1935-36, there were over 2,650 camps located in all states as well as Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands (Leake and Carter 1987). Enrollees and support staff numbered over 600,000. According to Leake and Carter (1987), specific accomplishments of the Corps during its existence included: construction of 3,470 fire towers, 97,000 miles of roads, and 4,135,000 man days devoted to fighting fires. Erosion control projects covered over 20,000,000 acres. A large number of man days were also contributed to construction of recreation facilities in national, state, county, and metropolitan parks and forests. Many projects were also conducted for the Grazing Service on public lands.

The CCC continued to work into the 1940s. The last full season for the CCC was in 1941. President Roosevelt had hoped the CCC program would be a permanent program. However, the onset of World War II and the subsequent increasing demands of the work force made this unrealistic by 1942.

The CCC camps were under supervision of the U.S. Army although recruits were not required to wear uniforms or submit to normal military discipline or drills (Medicine Bow Collection). The Wyoming CCC camps were part of the 8th Corps Area which also included Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma (Thybony et al. 1985:140). A majority of the Wyoming recruits arrived by train from Fort Sill, Oklahoma (Cheyenne Tribune 5/20/33). Headquarters for the Wyoming camps was Fort Francis E. Warren in Cheyenne, Wyoming (Grasso et al. 1982:208).

In Wyoming, seven CCC camps were established on the Medicine Bow Forest in 1933. These seven camps enrolled 835 men during the first season. The camps were located in Pole Mountain, Chimney Park (F-17), Centennial, Arlington, Encampment (F-21), French Creek and Ryan Park (F-22) (Medicine Bow Collection). Most of the camps were seasonal and men were transferred to camps with warmer weather during the winter months. In 1935 the CCC was expanded in Wyoming. The Wyoming camps increased to thirty two, ten of these camps were located on National Forest land. Other camps established on or near the Medicine Bow Forest included Brush Creek (F-39), Mullen Creek (F-36), Esterbrook (F-37), and Saratoga (F-38), (Medicine Bow Collection 1921 - 1935 Scrapbook). Smaller side camps were also established for specific projects.

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Each camp consisted of about 200 men. Facilities at the camps varied but most camps consisted of a barracks, a kitchen, a mess hall, latrines, showers or bath, a recreation room and Officer's quarters. Some camps also had, a reading room, a blacksmith shop, tennis courts, and areas for football and baseball. A number of the Wyoming CCC camps participated in an local softball leagues (Gillen 1989). Most camps generated their own electricity and were able to provide newsreels and motion pictures (Thybony et al. 1985:140). The men were housed in either wood frame barracks or canvass wall tents with wood floors. The tents held three to five men. Each tent contained a small sand box in the center of the floor which in turn contained a small conical wood burning stove (Jack Edwards: personal communication). Each camp contained two or more permanent structures which served as mess halls, canteens, class rooms, infirmaries and administrative buildings for the camp (Herb Hohn; Jack Edwards; personal communication).

The French Creek and Encampment camps built boxing rings and conducted prize fights with locals. The town of Encampment purchased their first fire truck with proceeds raised through the prize fights. Several camps including the French Creek and Saratoga camps printed their own newspapers (Jack Edwards: personal communication). Camp news was also published in the local Saratoga newspaper (Encampment Museum Collection). Lions clubs in the area provided games, puzzles, books, and magazines to the camps (Laramie Boomerang 5/31/55).

Side camps contained several permanent structures and wall tents for the men. The Ryan Park camp held between 25 to 60 men in a given year in addition to administrative staff and a camp doctor. The Ryan Park Camp also had a canteen in which the men could buy tobacco, toiletries, and other personal items (Jack Edwards: personal communication).

In 1935, the University of Wyoming instituted a program of correspondence courses for some four hundred CCC enrollees in Wyoming (Thybony et al. 1985:143). During leisure time the men could take courses in English, math, biology, social sciences, typing and shorthand. Specific courses were developed for skills needed in CCC camps and wilderness areas. Courses included auto mechanics, elementary forestry, journalism and bookkeeping.

The Educational Advisor for the Saratoga camp was a civilian named Irvin E. Ihrig. The educational building contained a wood working shop in the south end and a library and classroom in the north end. Jack Edwards, a CCC enrollee from the Kemmerer Wyoming area, served as Education Assistant for the camp in 1939. Jack taught reading and "fractions" lessons and was in charge of the camp library. In this position Jack received a raise from \$30 to \$36 a day and was allowed a private bedroom in the education building (Jack Edwards: personal communication).

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The Wyoming CCC camps were involved in a number of different jobs including: maintenance and construction of trails, roads, bridges, fences, telephone lines, ranger stations, campgrounds and picnic grounds, fire lookouts stations, winter sports areas, rodent and insect control, thinning of timber, erosion control and firefighting (Laramie Daily Bulletin 10/21/38).

The CCC was also involved with a wide variety of projects in the Medicine Bow Mountains. Research plots to monitor tree growth in unthinned stands, were developed in the Chimney Park Camp. The CCC worked in conjunction with the Fish and Game Department to build retaining or rearing ponds for fish cultures at Towner Lake, at the mill pond below Towner Lake, on Muddy Creek, on Upper Brush Creek and at Pole Mountain. Many existing campgrounds were improved, enlarged and latrines, tables, grates, water and shelter were improved. The Saratoga CCC camp was involved in the construction of a new winter sports course on Barrett Ridge in the Ryan Park area. Over 280,000 ponderosa and lodgepole pine trees were planted on Pole Mountain (Thybonny et al. 1985:142). All CCC camps were involved in roadside clearing projects, insect control programs, and fire suppression activities. The Encampment camp worked on road improvement projects including reconstruction of the the Battle Pass Road (Wyoming Highway 70). Crews from the Centennial, Brush Creek, and Ryan Park Camps worked on the Snowy Range Road (Medicine Bow Collection).

Other CCC projects included the destruction of abandoned tie-camps and town sites that were considered fire hazards. During the 1930s, the historic town site of Battle and the tie-camp at Commissary Park were destroyed by the CCC (Cheyenne Tribune 10/6/33 and 10/9/33).

One lasting contribution of the CCC program was the construction of Forest Service administrative sites including ranger stations and guard stations. Ranger stations usually included an office, a ranger residence, a garage and/or barn, and other outbuildings. These administrative sites were usually located on the Forest boundary. Guard stations were usually one room buildings with an associated corral for horses. Guard stations were usually located in more remote areas of a forest, serving as base camp for rangers to conduct a variety of seasonal projects such as range allotment monitoring. Construction of new administrative sites was a key for the Forest Service in its new role as an active resource management agency and to meet the demand for expanded services due to the increased public use of Forest lands.

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Herb Hohn served as foreman of the Ryan Park CCC crew which constructed the Brush Creek ranger station and the Saratoga CCC crew which constructed the Saratoga office. Mr. Hahn indicated the CCC crews did the rough construction work, while locals were hired to do much of the skilled finish work on the buildings. For example, a local rancher named Harvey Mowery was hired to do the electrical wiring on the Saratoga Office. Fred Potter, a rancher from the Encampment, Wyoming area, did all the masonry work at the Brush Creek site. Urban Shantz was a carpenter from the Chicago area who constructed the cabinets and herbarium in the office and residence at Brush Creek. Skilled carpenters from Laramie and Rawlins, Wyoming were hired to construct the roof at Brush Creek (Herb Hohn: personal communication).

The Medicine Bow National Forest contains four historic Ranger Stations, constructed by the CCC camps during the 1930s. These include: (1) the Brush Creek Ranger Station constructed by the Ryan Park Side Camp (F-22); (2) the Keystone Work Center, constructed by the Chimney Park Side Camp (F-17); (3) the Centennial Ranger Station, constructed by the Mullen Creek Camp (F-36) and; (4) the La Prele Work Center, constructed primarily by the Cold Springs Side Camp (F-37).

Administrative buildings on the Medicine Bow National Forest built by the CCC are representative of of the organization, development, success, and influence of the CCC in local, state, and national history and the contribution of the CCC to the USDA Forest Service during the Depression-era.

Depression-Era USDA Forest Service Rustic Architecture, as Expressed on the Medicine Bow National Forest

Forest Service administrative sites constructed during the Depression era on the Medicine Bow National Forest exhibit a distinctive "rustic" architectural style developed by the Forest Service and implemented by the CCC. In general, the rustic style is characterized by the use of native materials to construct buildings which blend in with the natural environmental setting of a particular region, forest, or specific site. A wide variety of rustic styles were developed to be compatible with the many different environmental settings within the National Forest system. In Region 2 and the Medicine Bow Forest in particular, one prominent rustic style features

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buildings with peeled log walls, gabled wood shingle roofs, tongue-in-groove doors and ceilings, and rubble stone foundations.

During the early years of the Forest Service, rangers lived in isolated buildings usually built by themselves. These ranger stations and guard stations were usually simple one-room dwellings and associated corrals and barn. The cost of the buildings was to be kept under \$800 (Sullivan et al. 1989:E6). The wide variety of architectural styles represented by this time period can generally be referred to as vernacular architecture which refers to the use of local native materials in building construction.

The concept of formal and standardized architectural plans or guidelines was first addressed by the Park Service. The Park Service developed a rustic architectural style which would hopefully balance the goal of maintaining scenic values with the need to administer Park lands. An instruction manual for conservation program crews to use in constructing rustic style buildings on Park Service Lands was published by Albert Good (1938). In the introduction Good explains his concept of the rustic style as one that "Successfully handled, it is a style, which through use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of severely straight lines and over sophistication, 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" (Good 1938:1).

With the onset of the 1920s the role of the Forest Service was expanding rapidly. New administrative sites were needed throughout the national system in order to facilitate expanding resource management programs and increased public contact. In a review of current facilities the Forest Service realized that a stylistic identity unique to the agency which would blend in with local environmental settings was needed (Carney 1992:E6). In addition the availability of Depression-era relief work programs such as the CCC provided the man power necessary to rapidly build a large number of administrative sites.

In response, to both need and opportunity the Washington Office directed each Forest Service Region to design administrative buildings consistent with their unique cultural and ecological setting (Carney 1992:E6). A series of "Standard Plans" were developed for administrative sites known as Ranger Stations. Standard Plans were specifically developed for the primary structures in ranger station administrative complexes including the office, dwelling, and barn/garage. Use of Standard Plans resulted in the mass production of a number of new facilities in a short period of time. The Standard Plan concept also brought a degree uniformity to Forest Service administrative sites constructed during the Depression era and established a physical identity for the Forest Service, easily recognizable by the public. A high degree of craftsmanship was needed in order to use native materials in the construction of

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standard plan buildings. The rustic architectural style exhibited by Depression-era Forest Service Administrative buildings on the Medicine Bow National Forest exhibit the high level of craftsmanship used by CCC crews.

By the late 1930s, the program to implement rustic architectural styles in Forest service administrative sites shifted significantly. Standard Plans, while useful for mass production and uniformity, allowed very little functional flexibility between sites. In order to increase flexibility the Forest Service embraced the concept of Acceptable Plans. The primary difference between standard and acceptable plans was that standard plans required modification of the site to meet the building design while acceptable plans required modification of the building design to meet the site setting. Both philosophies required architectural designs which reflected the local environmental setting.

The philosophy and technical aspects of acceptable plans are described in a manual entitled Acceptable Building Plans: Forest Administrative Buildings. The manual contains guidelines for design and construction of administrative facilities based on plans originally developed by the Regional Offices. The basic philosophy of the program is discussed in the manual by Ellis Groben, a consulting architect. Groben explained the purpose of the program was to "combat the tendency of the Forest Service to use imported styles of architecture which were foreign in character to the particular region where a building was constructed" (Carney 1992:E6). To remedy this problem, Groben suggested that each region divide their area into a series of ecological zones based on vegetation, climate, forest cover, and traditional architectural style. These characteristics would be used to develop Forest Service architectural styles which would blend with the natural setting unique to a particular site. For example an adobe style architecture, reminiscent of traditional adobe or pueblo architecture in the desert Southwest would be most suitable for that area while a rough timber and stone style would best suit alpine areas.

By the end of the World War II Forest Service architecture was dominated by a new homogeneous "Functional" style. This signaled the end of the period of Forest Service rustic architecture, and the first attempt of the Forest Service to characterize or identify itself through regionally and locally unique architectural styles.

In summary, Depression-era administrative sites on the Medicine Bow National Forest are representative of the period of change in the Forest Service from custodial superintendence to active natural resource management. The use of standard plans provided the Forest Service with a unique physical identity as expressed in the rustic architectural style of administrative sites. This style is also representative of the Civilian Conservation Corps contribution to the emerging role of the Forest Service in natural resource management. Finally the rustic architectural style represents the high quality of craftsmanship of the CCC construction crews.

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## F. Associated Property Types

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### I. Name of Property Type Administrative Complexes

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#### II. Description

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a wide range of facilities for the Forest Service during the Depression-era including ranger stations, guard stations, fire towers, bridges, camping facilities, roads, and other support facilities. The properties discussed in this nomination are typically identified as ranger stations which represent Forest Service administration at the District or "Field" level. These administrative complexes contain two or more buildings including offices, dwellings, barns, garages, storage sheds and other support structures.

Ranger stations represent the role of the Forest Service as a land management agency at the local, regional, and national level. Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, these properties represent Depression-era Forest Service architecture. Many of these structures conform to Forest Service Standard plans. The CCC construction crews demonstrated a high level of craftsmanship in using native materials to construct the ranger stations. The vernacular architectural style of ranger stations on the Medicine Bow National Forest can be defined as United States Forest Service (USFS), rustic architecture.

Administrative buildings crafted in the USFS rustic style are characterized by horizontal log walls featuring saddle notched corners and rubble stone foundations. Garages typically have concrete slab foundations. Offices, dwellings and many supply sheds are one-story structures while garages can be two-story affairs. Roofs are medium-gabled and covered with wood shingles. Office and dwelling structures normally contain open stone porches constructed in a "roughly squared" masonry style (Phillips 1989:144). Dwellings also contain rubble stone fireplaces. Vertical board doors were typically used on both houses and garages. Casement windows with six or eight panes are predominant and usually associated with horizontal wood shutters. The pine tree motif is commonly used for decoration and cut into wood shutters, gates, kitchen benches, and book cases.

#### III. Significance

USDA Forest Service administrative complexes built by the Civilian Conservation Corps on the Medicine Bow National Forest during the Depression-era are significant under Criterion A [36 CFR 60.6(a)] for their association with the development of the Forest Service as a land management agency and the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in this development during the Depression-era. They represent the changing role of the Forest Service from custodial superintendence to active resource management. They also represent the critical contribution of the CCC to this change through the construction of support facilities including administrative sites. These administrative sites also meet Criterion C [36 CFR 60.6(c)] because they embody the rustic architectural style implemented by the Forest Service during the Depression-era through a series of standard plans. These structures also represent a high level of craftsmanship expressed by the CCC construction crews in the use of native materials to construct the rustic architectural style.

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**IV. Registration Requirements**

Integrity is a key component of the evaluation and is composed of seven aspects including: location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, association, and feeling. An individual property may not possess all of these aspects. However a property should be able to evoke a sense of the history and architectural style that makes it significant.

In order to qualify for the National Register administrative buildings should retain their ability to evoke a sense of the Depression-era and the histories of the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps during that time period. These structures must also possess the integrity which represents the Forest Service Rustic architectural style of the Depression-era.

Specifically complexes eligible under Criterion A should appear essentially as they did during the Depression-era when they were constructed. Members of the crew who worked on these complexes should be able to recognize them today. Its design, association, feeling and setting should be essentially unchanged. Complexes eligible under Criterion C should exhibit the high level of hand tooled craftsmanship as expressed in the uniform tight fitting log wall courses, rough masonry style foundations and porches, and wood shingle roofs typical of USFS rustic architecture of the Depression-era.

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## G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

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A survey of historic administrative structures on the Medicine Bow National Forest was conducted by Forest Archeologist Jim Heid (1992). The survey included ranger stations, guard stations, work centers, fire towers, and other administrative buildings. Historic Forest Service properties were identified through research of Medicine Bow National Forest property files, Forest historical files, operation records for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Denver Colorado, and the Forest Cultural Resource Overview (Grasso et al. 1981). Interviews were conducted with current and former USFS employees, and former Civilian Conservation Corps members. A total of 21 historic administrative sites containing 102 individual buildings were identified. Research showed that 44 structures were at least fifty years old.

Four historic administrative sites including Brush Creek, Centennial, La Prele, and Keystone, were selected for this National Register nomination. These sites contained several common elements which separated them from the other properties as a unique group. These four sites were all constructed during the Depression-era by the Civilian Conservation Corps or other crews using the same Forest Service standard plans, which feature the USFS rustic architectural style. Each site served as a ranger station. These common elements were developed into three historic contexts discussed above.

Three of the administrative sites contains a mixture of historic and modern structures. The Keystone site does not contain any modern structures. For the purpose of inventory and discussion these structures were divided into two functional categories. Primary structures include the ranger office, ranger dwelling and shop/garage. These structures were the location of primary administrative activities. Secondary administrative structures included fuel storage sheds, pump houses and crew barracks. These secondary structures vary in age from historic to modern. These functional categories are not used in assessing significance, eligibility, or contributing and non-contributing status.

Forest Service Heritage program personnel produced sites maps, and conducted archive research for each administrative site. Structure plans, based on original blue prints were obtained. Photographs were taken by Richard Collier, archive photographer from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.

The seven aspects of integrity including location, design, setting, workmanship, association, and feeling were considered critical elements in the evaluation of eligibility for each administrative complex and it's individual buildings.

Both primary and secondary historic administrative structures are currently in their original locations. Moving a structure from its original location could result in the structure becoming a non-contributing element of an eligible site. However, the administrative site as a whole would not necessarily lose it's eligible status through the removal or loss of an individual structure.

Integrity of design was defined on two levels including design of individual structures and design of the administrative complex as a whole. The four administrative sites considered under this multiple property nomination each contained one or more primary administrative structures which exhibit the USFS rustic architectural style. Individual structures which retain their original exterior appearance also retain their integrity of design through the association and feeling for the USFS rustic architectural style. This style was implemented in construction through use of USFS Standard Construction Plans. A structure could be renovated if original specifications, as shown in the Standard Plans, are followed and native

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materials are used. Sets of Standard Plans are included with the individual property nomination forms. A survey of the four administrative sites revealed a variety of sites designs in terms of environmental settings and spacial relationships between historic buildings. Therefore no standard site design was identified. The site retained its integrity of design if it conveyed the association and feeling of a historic Forest Service administrative site. This association and feeling was most strongly conveyed through the rustic architectural style exhibited by the individual buildings.

The degree of visual intrusion by modern buildings was considered to be the critical element in assessing integrity of setting. Each administrative site contains modern out buildings. The presence of modern buildings in the visual foreground could compromise the ability of a property to evoke the association and feeling of a historic administrative site. The presence of modern buildings in the visual background of the site area would not necessarily detract from the overall association and feeling of the historic property.

Integrity of materials is considered a key aspect of an individual buildings ability to provide the historic association and feeling for the Depression-era. This aspect of integrity is based directly on the use of native stone and timber to produce structures in the USFS rustic architectural style. The level of modification to structures was considered. Modifications were considered minor and unobtrusive if the elements of original design and workmanship were easily observed. For a structure to retain it's physical integrity it had to evoke a sense of the fine craftsmanship of the CCC as exhibited in construction of Depression-era USFS rustic architecture.

Integrity of workmanship was also identified as a critical element of eligibility. Historic structures in these administrative sites exhibit a high level of hand tooled craftsmanship as expressed in the uniform tight fitting log wall courses, rough masonry style foundations and porches, and wood shingle roofs typical of the USFS rustic architectural style. This high level of craftsmanship may also be expressed on the interior of buildings. Kitchen cabinets and herbariums exhibit a high level of carpentry skills while fire places exhibit a high level of masonry skills. Restoration projects would not detract from the integrity of workmanship if such work would match the existing character of historic workmanship.

The historic administrative buildings considered under this nomination retain a high degree of physical integrity. As such these properties also retain their association and feeling for Depression-era Forest Service administrative activities, the craftsmanship and contribution of the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Forest

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Service, and the the high level of hand tooled craftsmanship as expressed in the USFS rustic architectural style. Several actions could adversely affect these aspect of integrity. First remodeling or restoration of individual structures would result in an adverse effect if integrity of original design, materials, or workmanship is compromised. Visual intrusion of modern buildings into the site foreground would also compromise integrity of association and/or feeling.

The assessment of integrity of these administrative complexes and their individual structures follows National Register standards. The degree to which allowances can be made for alterations and deterioration is assessed through the comparative use of current survey descriptions, current and historic photographs, original construction plans, and other historical data.

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency                 | <input type="checkbox"/> University       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal agency          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |

Specify repository: Medicine Bow National Forest, Supervisors Office

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