

## **Work of the Technical Services in Colorado, as of Summer 1936**

*Extracted from History of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Colorado, Summer 1936, compiled by L.A. Gleyre and C.N. Alleger, pages 148-152, covering only the first three years. —slw*

The work project in each CCC camp in Colorado is planned by and executed under the supervision of representatives of one of the following Government agencies: Forest Service, National Park Service, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Division of Grazing.

### **The Forest Service (Dept of Agriculture)**

Since the establishment of the CCC in April, 1933, there has been an average of between eleven and twelve camps working on National Forests in Colorado each period. The expenditures to the end of June, 1936, have been \$2,249,908.

1. The CCC of Colorado have spent 8,795 man days fighting 660 fires, 7,435 man days in fire protection work, and 622 man days in fire prevention work with Forest visitors or users. The boys have built twenty-seven miles of fire break and have maintained an additional 2.2 miles. They have cleaned up and reduced the fire hazard on 1,057.5 miles of road and trail. They have made a general clean up and reduced the fire risk on 2,280 acres of Forest land.

2. The CCC have carried on insect control work on some 450,773 acres of forest land, and have completed tree disease control work on 380 acres.

3. The CCC has planted 4,973 acres of forest land which had been burned and denuded. The boys have spent 12,539 days in the nursery growing trees for forest planting in Colorado and neighboring states. The CCC have collected 872 bushels of cones and 570 pounds of hardwood seed to be used in growing nursery stock for planting.

Some 6,883 acres of range have been seeded, ninety-seven miles of stock driveway have been constructed, and fifty-five miles maintained by the CCC. They have eradicated poisonous plants from 9,724 acres of the range, and conducted rodent control work on 331,316 acres of forest and range lands. In addition, they did insect pest control work on 61,952 acres of range land.

4. [The CCC boys] have improved and developed 115 miles of fishing stream and have planted 1,341,000 fish.

5. The CCC have built fifty-five water control structures and cleared twenty-one acres of channels in flood control work. They placed 2,692 cubic yards of material in cribbing dykes and jetties. They have done erosion control work on 114,282 acres, building 63,962 check dams and maintaining 738 others.

6. The CCC have developed 313.4 acres of campground and five acres of picnic ground in the Forests, and have landscaped twenty acres involving the moving of 1,415 shrubs and small trees. They have cleared a pond site of forty-two acres and built a dam creating a lake.

## **The Soil Conservation Service** (formerly Erosion Control Service), Dept. of Agriculture

*[Two camps were transferred from Forest Service to SCS in May 1935; seven new SCS camps were opened in July 1935.]*

From the “Dust Bowl” of Baca County to the rugged foothills of Larimer County, soil and water conservation methods have been effectively demonstrated by these camps...

The strategic erosion control location of each camp for demonstrational purposes of soil and water conservation is noteworthy. In general, watersheds have been selected as the demonstrational areas. These areas range from 4,000 to 8,000 feet in elevation. ... Only in one respect is there similarity: that of land use. Eighty- one percent of all demonstrational areas of the camps is grazing land.

The accomplishments of these ECW camps to July 1, 1936 [from mid-1935], by the expenditure of 234,391 enrollee man days would require a special supplement too lengthy for inclusion in this brief history. In all the ECW camp areas supervised by the Soil Conservation Service, new erosion control practices have been developed and proven methods extended. Spreading systems and special plows have been developed, as well as new structural types of water conservation dams and new control devices.

The entire program of soil and moisture conservation, as demonstrated throughout all the camp areas, has resulted in erosion control and the reestablishment of the protective vegetation which in the future will prevent wind and water destruction of Colorado soils.

## **The National Park Service** (Dept of Interior)

Perhaps one of the most important achievements of the CCC in this [RockyMountain] park was the control of a heavy infestation of Black Hills beetle in the Park Forests. Under the supervision of park officials, over a thousand trees were treated during the combined sixth and seventh periods. The boys adapted themselves well to this type of work, cutting and burning the infested trees.

In Moraine Park [RMNP], part of an old hotel development has been remodeled to serve as a museum and information office, and many of the exhibits contained in the new museum were made by CCC enrollees under the direction of the park naturalist. ... an amphitheater to be used for outdoor lectures and moves is nearing completion, and a parking area... will be completed before the end of summer.

[RMNP continued...] Campgrounds have been developed to serve the increasing number of visitors... much needed fire trails have been built; seeding and sodding of cut slopes.... fine work done by both enrollees and foremen in such emergencies as fire and rescues.

In Colorado National Monument enrollees have principally engaged in widening and improving fifteen miles of the Monument highway [light and less hazardous sections]... constructed four

miles of trails, developed a public camp ground... conducted insect control work over 1,000 acres of Monument forest, and extensive landscaping and clean-up along the Monument highway.

In Mesa Verde National Park... enrollees have completed... twenty-one small family residences for park personnel, two public comfort stations, one public contact station, six frame utility buildings... Other major projects comprise the construction of a three-acre public camp ground...

### **State Park Division** (overseen by NPS)

State Park Division developed parks for municipalities in Colorado, including Denver Mtn Parks a bit later.

1. Access roads where necessary.
2. Interior roads and parking areas sufficient to permit access to, and use of parks but no more.
3. Horse and foot trails.
4. Water and sanitary facilities.
5. Picnic and camping facilities where indicated.
6. Fences.

The above also includes landscape work, such as tree and shrub planting, grading, and land moulding, also such minor structures as are indicated. Lodges were built at Boulder, Rifle, Pueblo and Trinidad—shelter[s] at Durango, Loveland and Boulder.

Following is the list of the areas, together with the approximate acreage involved, which have been or are being developed...

- Boulder Mountain Parks, 600 acres
- Denver Mountain Parks, 12,000 acres
- Loveland Mountain Park, 700 acres [completed]
- Fort Collins Mountain Park, 700 acres
- Greeley Metropolitan Park, 80 acres [completed]
- Glenwood Springs, Lookout Mountain, 640 acres
- Glenwood Springs, Hanging Lake, 640 acres
- Rifle Mountain Park, 640 acres
- Durango, Hillcrest Park, 700 acres [completed]
- Trinidad, Monument Lake Park, 700 acres [completed]
- Colorado Springs, Palmer Park, 700 acres
- Colorado Springs, Garden of the Gods, 700 acres
- Pueblo Mountain Parks, 640 acres [completed]

### **Bureau of Reclamation** (Dept of Interior)

When the CCC forces were expanded in 1935, some fifty camps were allotted to the Bureau of Reclamation [nationwide] to be used on Western irrigation projects to assist in the conservation of water for irrigation purposes. In the Western States, water has been the greatest single influence on the prosperity of the people. Ample water means prosperous conditions; scarcity of water carries with it crop failure and consequent hard times. It was felt that the CCC could be of great value in the conservation of water and this belief has since been fully justified. ...

Colorado was assigned three camps in this general expansion. [All built in 1935] ...

The work done by Camp BR-23-C [Montrose] has been largely rehabilitation of the irrigation system. Old wooden structures have been replaced with new concrete structures. Considerable work has been done in protecting canal banks where erosion was taking place. ... A side camp has been established near the Gunnison Tunnel to rebuild the operating road to the intake which had deteriorated to such an extent that it was nearly impassable.

Camp BR-22-C [Grand Junction]... Many acres of valuable fruit land were being ruined by seepage from the canals above... worst offenders in this seepage are being lined with concrete and drainage ditches have been dug to reclaim other seeped lands.

Camp BR-59-C work [included] cleared and cleaned many miles of laterals and replaced numbers of old irrigation structures. Valuable work has been accomplished in revetment of the Colorado River bank to protect the canal adjacent to the river.

### **Division of Grazing** (Dept of Interior)

Work accomplished by CCC enrollees, Division of Grazing, ECW, in Colorado, includes trail blazing and roads, reservoir and dam construction, riprapping, spring development, land conservation, rodent and pest eradication, fire-fighting, building of separating and holding corrals, establishing of stock driveways and eradication of poisonous plants.

[At this report, Colorado had five camps (Elk Springs, Grand Junction, Kline, Montrose, and Redvale; all built in 1935)]

One hundred eight and five-tenths miles of truck trails; 28,696 square yards of riprapping; nineteen dams and reservoirs; twenty-five check dams; fifteen springs developed; 204,333 acres rodent and pest eradication; 3,709 acres poisonous weed eradication; 617 man days of fire-fighting; one corral; and 147 miles stock driveways. ...

The enrollees are opening up new country and rebuilding old country that has been depleted for years by over-grazing, fires and other man-made causes. ...