



The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Cultural Resources CCC History Project

The CCC at Work on the Refuges

Seney National Wildlife Refuge Michigan

CCC work on refuges took many forms. Here are some examples of how the CCC left their mark on Refuges. The site of Seney NWR is located in the Upper Peninsula in Seney, Michigan and was established in 1935 as a Migratory Bird Refuge. At Seney, Camp Germfask was originally established and comprised of White Men from Hamtramck and Detroit. The enrollees spent most of their time building warehouses, a bridge, a semi-trailer unit, a portable camp, and more permanent structures such as the wigwams, log cabins and stone buildings. The C's also created fences, inlets, and water control structures. The wigwams, log cabins, and stone buildings are still located on Seney and in good condition.



Figure 1. A log cabin at Seney NWR build by the CCC.



Figure 2. Photo of CCC Camp at Malheur NWR.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Oregon

Malheur hosted two CCC Camps and a Spike Camp. The Sod House Camp was located in the Visitor's parking lot and relocated in 1936 to the east of the old Headquarters building. They constructed the center patrol road, ponds, bridges crossing the Blitzen River, boundary fences, offices, a warehouse, a barn that was created by quarrying local rock, cutting to size and hand placing it. Buena Vista was the second CCC camp located on Buena Vista Lane. The C's also constructed a white shop building, the house at Buena Vista, and second equipment storage barn that mirrored the shop. The CCC Spike Camp was called Five Mile Camp. A spike camp is a temporary camp site for a forestry crew that is accessible from the main camp. The focus on Five Mile was the P Ranch area. Improvements were made to the house at P Ranch, and on the addition to the French Glen Hotel. Other projects were the Center Patrol Road, along Blitzen Road, structures at Benson Pond, bridge across Benson Pond outlet, a stone structure, four refuge towers, (two wood, two metal), all bridges across Blitzen River within the Refuge, Ram Ditch, Stubblefield Canal, East Canal and West Canal. These structures are still visible at Malheur today

You may contact Mr. Eugene Marino (Eugene_marino@fws.gov), USFWS Archaeologist at 703-358-2173 for more information about the USFWS Cultural Resources Program. You may also visit <http://www.fws.gov/historicpreservation> for additional information on the USFWS museum property program. Photos courtesy of USFWS