



The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Cultural Resources CCC History Project The CCC at Work on the Refuges

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge Nebraska

CCC work on refuges took many forms. Here are some examples of how the CCC left their mark on Refuges. Valentine NWR located in Nebraska was the location of a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp that was established in 1935. While there the CCC created lodging quarters, a service building, a laboratory building at Hackberry, an equipment shed, barn, a tuber cellar, pump house, fur shed, Pony Lake Barn, Pony Lake Machine Shed, Newman Barn, Hackberry Lookout Tower, Pony Lake Lookout Tower, Gordon Dam, control nurseries, and a winder bird house/duck hospital. The Dad's Lake Recreation Area was created entirely by the CCC for the public's recreational use on the Wildlife Refuge. All these structures are still standing and can be seen on the premises (*Photos Courtesy of USFWS*).



Figure 1. CCC Enrollees Constructing a house at Wichita Mountain NWR.



Figure 2. Aerial view of CCC Camps at Wichita Mountain.

Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Nevada

Of the many CCC structures that were created on Sheldon very few remain. The Portal or entrance to the CCC Camp Sheldon is still standing. The one shop building, a boathouse/ laundry structure, and the remains of Camp Sheldon can be seen along the walkways and corners of the housing platforms. An interesting fact for the camp is that enrollees at Camp Sheldon only stayed during the spring and summer months. In the winter months the Camp moved to Boulder Canyon Refuge.

Wichita Mountain Oklahoma

Wichita Mountain is the refuge with the largest number of CCC structures still standing. They were built by the three CCC Camps that were located on Wichita Mountain: The Elm Island Camp, Panther Creek Camp, and Buffalo Springs Camp. The Camps were stationed there between 1933 to 1941 when all CCC Camps shut down due to the pending entrance

of the United States into World War II. Over twenty buildings from residences and garages to office, storage, and horse barn type buildings are still visible on the landscape today. At least 29 dams, 19 of which are major dams are still visible. Additionally trails and over fifty miles of Big Game Fences have lasted to this day.



Photo of CCC Camp 859 "Panther Creek" at Wichita Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.

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.

