

BIRCH CREEK HERITAGE

Fort Missoula's "Show Camp"

Established in 1935 as a model camp in the Fort Missoula District, Birch Creek operated from 1935 to 1941 under the U.S. Army, in partnership with the Forest Service. At its peak, 200 men bustled among its 15 permanent buildings. The pot belly stoves were popular features in the winter when temperatures could plummet to minus 32 degrees.



Moving in day!

CCC "boys" pose with their newly built road.



A Conservation Legacy

NEARLY TWO HUNDRED AT BIRCH CREEK

CCC Camp Once More Populous Community as Youths Arrive.

Birch Creek CCC camp, deserted since last May when a company of youths was transferred, is once more a populous and lively community. A company of 150 Civilian Conservation Corps youths arrived last Friday from the Maoy Glacier camp, where they have been stationed this summer. They left their thin of Apes and were transferred to their new quarters to track.

The company, consisting of boys from Missouri, Arkansas and Nebraska, was under the command of Lt. James Coleman. Two weeks before, several CCC boys under the command of Lt. Coleman, White arrived and made the road ready for occupancy.



This gate welcomed new Birch Creek enrollees.

Enduring on the Landscape

The young men of Birch Creek fought fires, planted trees, built roads, bridges, campgrounds and picnic areas, levees and dikes. They built this camp, a ski hill at the Elkhorn Hot Springs, and the Birch Creek Guard Station just downhill from where you're standing. On your way here, you passed through a rock gate built by the Birch Creek boys. The work that helped their families survive has itself endured over the decades.

As you wander Birch Creek Camp, imagine being a part of this tough but gratifying life. Could you have foreseen your legacy?

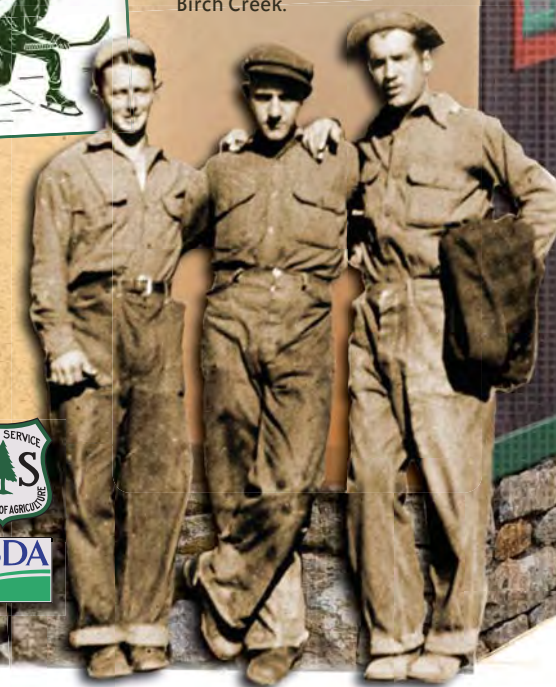
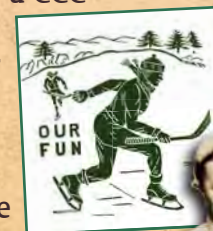
CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS U.S.A.



COMPANY 1501 ♦ CAMP F-60 ♦ BIRCH CREEK
DILLON, MONTANA

One of Our Nation's Best Remaining CCC Camps

Birch Creek was returned to the Forest Service in 1941 after it was abandoned as a CCC camp. In 1982, its significance in our nation's history was formally recognized when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since then, volunteers have helped the Forest Service maintain and preserve Birch Creek's CCC legacy.



A Lasting Camaraderie

After the evening meal, camps came to life with dances, plays, crafts, and the music of ping pong competitions.

Birch Creek fielded several baseball and basketball teams that competed well in southwest Montana, and the enrollees became fond members of the Dillon community.

Lifelong memories and friendships were forged here in the forests and barracks of Birch Creek.



Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
Caring for the Land and Serving People

