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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Steven M
Spencer/R4/USDAFS
12/01/2009 08:35 AM

To "Fritschle, Carter" <Carter.Fritschle@idwr.idaho.gov>
cc David.Negri@usdoj.gov, "Baxter, Garrick"
<Garrick.Baxter@idwr.idaho.gov>
bcc
Subject RE: Basin 63 Federal Reserved

Carter,
The pertinent pages will be in the US Mail to you.

Thank you.

Steve Spencer
Water Use Specialist (208) 365-7055
USDA Forest Service (208) 365-7037 FAX
1805 Highway 16, Room 5 e-mail: sspencer@fs.fed.us
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63-33042
63-33043

"Fritschle, Carter" <Carter.Fritschle@idwr.idaho.gov>



"Fritschle, Carter"
<Carter.Fritschle@idwr.idaho.gov>
12/01/2009 07:36 AM

To "Steven M Spencer" <sspencer@fs.fed.us>
cc <David.Negri@usdoj.gov>, "Baxter, Garrick"
<Garrick.Baxter@idwr.idaho.gov>
Subject RE: Basin 63 Federal Reserved

Steve,

I don't have any documentation of priority dates, that is why I was not sure where the 1933 date came from. Those dates will work fine, but it would be nice to be able to document the file with the evidence.

Thanks, Carter

Lester Creek Guard Station

The Lester Creek Administrative Site, located approximately three miles southwest of Pine, is used seasonally as a major fire facility, and is listed in Forest Service INFRA records as Lester Creek. Until 1935, the site was known as the Pine Ranger Station, after which the name was changed to Lester Creek,¹ but **the site has been in use since before it was officially approved in 1909.**² As early as 1907, mention was made of the **Ranger Station at Pine.**³ The area had been settled for a little over a decade when the site was approved for use, and a post office was established at Pine by 1897.⁴

By 1909, and the site's approval as an administrative site, substantial improvements had been built. The most important of these was a two-story house, which was just being completed. A contemporary photograph illustrates its foursquare design, complete with a pyramidal, hipped roof, clapboarded exterior, one-over-one double sash windows, and an uncompleted, full-width front porch. In 1921 a back porch is mentioned in relation to the dwelling.⁵

A second major structure was completed during the same time period as the house. A large, rectangular, side-gabled, board and batted barn was also pictured in a photograph dated 1910. Both the barn and the house were once again noted in 1916.⁶ A contemporary account notes that some of the work carried out during that time period included "building ranger stations and barns, and clearing stumps at ranger stations to make room for pasture (the one at Pine was especially difficult)."⁷ 1921 saw the final mention of the original structures at the old Pine Ranger Station. The Assistant Regional Forester, on a tour of the Boise National Forest, noted that he "saw with one or two exceptions all of the houses owned by the Forest Service on the Boise. The Cottonwood, Idaho City, Long Gulch, Pine, and Atlanta houses are at yearlong stations and are reasonably adequate, I believe."⁸ With the construction of new improvements during the CCC era, these original structures at the site were lost.

During the summer of 1923, it was suggested by the District Ranger at Pine, that the Pine Ranger Station be released, and that property approximately nine miles northeast of the established ranger station, at 3 N., 10 E., Sec. 28, be acquired from the Bureau of Reclamation for a new ranger station. Following such an acquisition, the buildings at the

¹ Improvement Atlas; 1938; BNF Office of the Historian.

² Boise National Forest; "Land Status Atlas"; Undated; BNF Office of the Historian.

³ F. S. Correspondence; 1908; File 289, BNF Office of the Historian.

⁴ "Post Office Proposal"; 1907; File 686, BNF Office of the Historian.

⁵ C. N. Woods; "Memorandum for the District Forester (Regional Forester)"; 1921; File 312, BNF Office of the Historian.

⁶ Dana Parkinson; "Intensive Classification of the Boise National Forest"; 1916; Volume labeled "Land Classification, Boise National Forest, Idaho", BNF Office of the Architectural Historian.

⁷ Dana Parkinson; Letter to F. S. Moore Regarding the History of the Boise; January 27, 1941; File 31, BNF Office of the Historian.

⁸ C. N. Woods; "Memorandum for the District Forester (Regional Forester)"; 1921; File 312, BNF Office of the Historian.

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Pine administrative site would be salvaged. Though approved by the Bureau of Reclamation, the site was never used when it was determined that in order to use it a piece of property would have to be purchased from a local herder. In addition to the restrictions against land purchases by the Forest Service, it was noted that the local school, a significant factor in the decision to move, was no longer in operation.⁹

Having weathered that particular administrative proposal, the status of the site was once again placed in flux a little over a decade later, when a new site for the ranger station was acquired in 1934. In July of that year, a site in Section 31 of 2 N., 10 E. was purchased for \$300.00 from Roland G. Pierce.¹⁰ Having constructed almost twelve thousand dollars in improvements on the old site in 1933 and 1934, the District would have encountered significant opposition to a proposal to abandon the older site. Instead, the new site was developed as the permanent ranger headquarters for the district under the name of Pine Ranger Station, while the site once known as Pine was renamed the Lester Creek Ranger Station.¹¹ Less than fifteen years later, with the completion of the Anderson Ranch Dam and Reservoir in 1947, the new Pine Ranger Station was inundated, and the old Pine, now Lester Creek, site once again gained preeminence.

Having solidified the seemingly ever-changing history of the site, it is easier to speak about the history of the current improvements on it. They were, as it was mentioned above, constructed predominantly in the early thirties under the job creation legislation of the Great Depression. Of the six structures begun on the site in 1933, only the outhouse was finished that same year, the five other buildings were all completed in 1934. The most important of these was the R4-8 dwelling, which was built with CCC labor for over \$4,800.00.¹² By 1983, at least one original window had been replaced, and the wood shingle roof had been covered with metal, but since that date, an additional window has been replaced along with both doors, and metal siding has covered the original shiplap.

Two garages were also under construction in 1933. The R4-20 garage, which was completed in 1934, was built for \$816.44, and was located close to the dwelling. In 1954, it was combined with an R4-20 garage originally built at Long Gulch Guard Station in 1934. Together, they were used as a bunkhouse.¹³ In 1983, it was determined that the structure was of no significance, and it was demolished. The second garage begun on the site in 1933 and completed in 1934, was a plan R4-33. It was altered for use as a cookhouse in the 1953, and then altered again to a bunkhouse in late 1968.¹⁴ It too was demolished in 1983, having been determined to have no significance.

An R4-11, four-horse barn was also constructed by the CCC in 1933 and 1934 for \$1,658.95. It was described as being "R4-11, 4-stall, frame, concrete foundation, saddle room and hayloft, 18' x 30'."¹⁵ It was still noted as a barn in 1957, after which it was

⁹ F. S. Correspondence; 1923 – 1924; RG 95, Box 29, NARA Pacific Alaska Region.

¹⁰ Improvement Atlas; 1938; BNF Office of the Historian.

¹¹ Ibid.

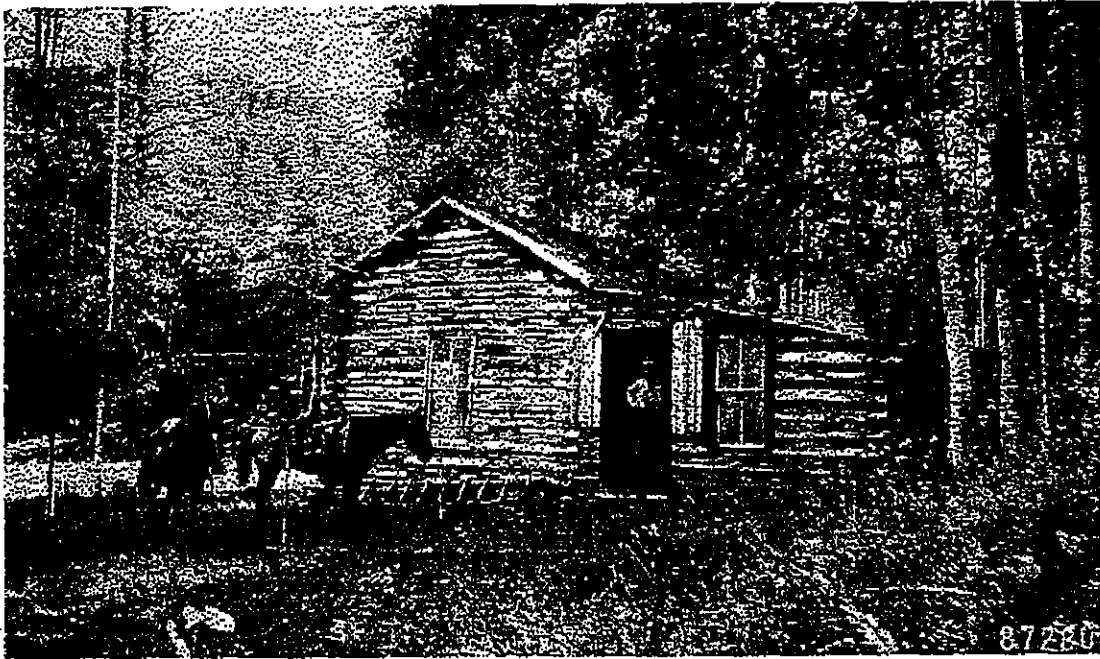
¹² Ibid.

¹³ George Kreizenbeck; "F. S. Correspondence"; 1953; File BS-896, BNF Heritage Program Office.

¹⁴ Real Property Records; Undated; BNF Office of the Historian.

¹⁵ Ibid.

From Burley to Hailey, Idaho



February 15, 2004

Administrative Facilities of the Sawtooth National Forest, 1891-1960

Historic Overview

Forest Service Report No. SW-04-2195

By
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63-33143

Effective July 1, 1972, a new organization structure for the SNF combined the former Shake Creek Ranger District with the Fairfield Ranger District, giving it a total acreage of 392,700 acres. Fairfield continued to be the headquarters for the district and work centers were located at the Big Smoky and Shake Creek ranger stations.¹⁰²

Administrative Sites, Ranger Stations, and Guard Stations:

The following is a list of administrative sites, ranger stations, and guard stations within the boundaries of the Fairfield Ranger District (see Map Three below). They are differentiated by whether any administrative improvements were constructed at the site, or not. They are listed as ranger stations and/or guard stations if this type of improvement was made at the site. If no such improvement were made, they are listed as administrative sites only.

Big Smoky Administrative Site

The Big Smoky Administrative Site was recommended for withdrawal on 6/29/06, requested for withdrawal on 12/8/06, and withdrawn by the GLO on 12/13/06. A tabular record of administrative sites lists the 640-acre site at T3N, R13E, Section 1 on the SNF. This tract was revoked on 4/21/09.¹⁰³

Big Smoky Guard Station and Pasture

The Big Smoky Guard Station was recommended for withdrawal 6/25/08 and meant to replace the first Big Smoky Administrative Site withdrawal (see above). The second withdrawal was recommended on 6/25/08, requested on 8/11/08, and withdrawn by the GLO on 11/14/08. A tabular record of administrative sites lists the 162.40-acre site at T3N, R13E, Sections 3 and 11 on the SNF. The site was near the junction of the Big Smoky

¹⁰¹ File: Specific Miscellaneous, 1600—Information Services, Archaeologist Office, Supervisor Office, Sawtooth National Forest, Twin Falls, Idaho.

¹⁰² Information from Architectural Historian Richa Wilson, Region 4, Ogden, Utah.

¹⁰³ File: Tabular Record of Administrative Sites on Sawtooth National Forest, Information from Architectural Historian Richa Wilson, Region 4, Ogden, Utah; and File: Big Smoky Ranger Station, L Status—Stations, Archaeologist Office, Supervisor Office, Sawtooth National Forest, Twin Falls, Idaho.

River and Paradise Creek. A wagon road passed along the eastern boundary of the site, and a cabin was already located on the site according to a 1908 blueprint map of the site.¹⁰⁴

This location has been used as a guard station since the time of its withdrawal in connection with the administration of the Soldier Ranger District headquarters for the SNF at the time. As a guard station it was seasonally used 4-5 months each year, and it was 25 miles from Fairfield, the nearest supply point, 16 miles from the Soldier Ranger Station, and 55 miles from the Supervisor's Office at Hailey.¹⁰⁵