

roads, trails, range fences and water developments which we felt were needed efficiently to handle the administrative and recreational work in each forest.

*So while it was a joyous surprise to see the possible completion of our improvement plans, we were not stampeded into a lot of unplanned or unnecessary work. True, it did stretch our organization and tools and equipment were hard to get in the beginning, but those difficulties have been ironed out now, and the whole machine is working smoothly.*

*I believe every business and industry has felt the impulse from this work and the close of 1933 finds the Siskiyou National Forest much advanced in improvements much richer in equipment and with a very low fire record for the year...<sup>85</sup>*

## EARLY CCC CAMPS FOR THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Not only were the camps housing enrollees of the Corps located on USFS land out west, two CCC camps were allocated to the Oregon Department of Forestry and these would be located in the region covered by this book.

On May 5, 1933, Lynn E. Cronemiller, State Forester for Oregon, announced that the first two of the CCC camps to be located on the Oregon Department of Forestry lands would probably be located in Coos County in and around the 70,000-acre Elliott State Forest (located east of Reedsport) in early June of that year. These camps were also under the jurisdiction of the CCC headquarters in Medford, although for a time they were administered from the Eugene, Oregon office until that office merged into Medford.

At the time a request for a third camp in Coos County, near Coquille, was also communicated to Director Fechner. Cronemiller also suggested that possibly one or two more camps might be sighted after these first two work camps were up and running. Cronemiller went on to report that \$108,000 had been allocated for the three camps. This money came from the Army Quartermaster for food and supplies to be purchased locally.<sup>86</sup>

Another common theme that ran through articles published in local, regional, and national newspapers about the CCC program is captured here by an interview with A. C. Jackson, assistant forester of the USFS:

*"...A year in the Oregon woods has meant more to many a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps than grub, duds*

*and exercise in the opinion of A. C. Jackson, a forester with the USFS here in of Grants Pass, Oregon.*

*Hundreds of eastern youths are leaving this spring at the end of their allotted enrollment period and hundreds of young men new to the woods will be coming in. The experience of living as they have in a type of country entirely strange to them has been of immeasurable value. I've been in a number of the toughest camps made up principally of boys from the south side of Chicago and from the streets of New York who had never seen mountains and woods before.*

*It is true at first they express everything in terms of profanity and obscenity, but I noticed on my second visit that their conversation changed, and their outlook on the world had grown brighter as their bodies had grown stronger...<sup>87</sup>*

## BONDING WITH THE COMMUNITIES

One cannot put 200 young men in an isolated forest camp, working hard with picks and shovels all week and not expect some shenanigans when they went to town on the weekends with \$5 in their pockets. Essentially, boys will be boys and many went to town for some recreation to kick up their heels a bit and let off some steam. Camp commanders often used the local camp newspapers to urge enrollees to behave themselves when on leave for an evening, and to try to establish firm positive ties with the local population. Thus the camp papers functioned as a public relations tool also.

While not in one of the local CCC newspapers, the local *Coos Bay Times* on February 5, 1934 carried the following brief article about a time when boys from two camps confronted each other in town:

*"One CCC youth suffered a badly lacerated face and four others received minor bruises in a free-for-all fight on South Broadway Saturday night (Marshfield, Oregon). The melee was broken up before police arrived and the identity of the participants was not divulged by their friends who acted as unofficial referees. The brawl is said to have started when members of different camps passed disparaging remarks concerning the towns of the other group"<sup>88</sup>*

Since the camps were generally located away from large cities, the communities where the enrollees would go for recreation had small populations and were quite different