PROJECT PARTNER: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY:

This spring, HistoriCorps returned to the Centennial Work Center to continue the preservation work started in November 2017. This was a popular project due to its beautiful location, comfortable indoor lodging, and satisfying scope of work. One volunteer reflected,

“It was grand to watch morning sunrise from the living room picture window. Luminous colors of apricot, orange, rose, with Venus shining brightly just above in the early, blue sky. We saw a cow and calf moose pass through the yard the first morning.”

Constructed in 1938 by the Mullen Creek Camp and Ryan Park Side Camp crews of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Centennial Work Center served as a government office. Nowadays, the building is home to a Glacier Lakes Ecosystem Experiments Site, or GLEES, which provides a base for snow studies.

There are three buildings on the site, including a comfortable bunkhouse that will house this project’s volunteers. All three buildings at the Centennial Work Center are on the National Register of Historic Places. In the mid-1960’s, the building was “modernized” and a variety of unsympathetic additions that detracted from the building’s historic attributes were installed.

The CCC was one of the most popular parts of the New Deal during a time in American history when unemployment reached 20%. Members of the CCC were provided jobs, housing, and meals in return for undertaking a wide variety of unskilled manual labor jobs that developed the United States’ natural resources, enhanced its public lands, and more. The CCC paid the men on its crews a monthly wage of $30 (about $547 in today’s dollars), but required that $25 of that wage was
given to support the men’s families. The buildings that make up the Centennial Work Center carry significance because they were typical of the work done by the CCC during the Great Depression.

**WHERE:** This site is about 40 minutes west of Laramie, WY.

- Coordinates: 41.307556,-106.15782
- [Here is a Google map to Centennial Work Center.](#)

**WHAT WE DID:**

The scope of work for our continued project at the Centennial Work Center this spring included all the work necessary to complete the preservation-forward interior remodeling of the building for use as a service cabin. This included the installation of insulation, new interior half-log wall surfaces, new doors to the bedrooms, new trim to match the original material, new vinyl & carpeting tiles, new stain & varnish, new fixtures, and of course, some new paint!

Volunteers worked with field staff to learn and improve their skills at the following tasks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Est. Portion of Scope*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Installing interior half-log walls, doors, and trim</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Installing carpet &amp; tile</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Painting &amp; varnishing</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**HistoriCorps is a service learning partner of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture committed to the preservation and stewardship of significant resources on public lands.**