PROJECT PARTNER: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY:

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.

AREA TOURISM: The Centennial Work Center is located just off the Snowy Range Scenic Byway, a must-drive road for anyone who loves mountains, lakes, and ranches. Founded in 1876, the small town of Centennial, WY is surprisingly engaging. Visitors can enjoy historic “old west” buildings including an historic railroad depot, a museum, restaurants, and more.

WHAT: The Centennial Work Center project session this fall was the first of two stages of project work. Volunteers worked with field staff to learn and improve their skills at the following tasks:

- Selective removal of non-original materials from the interior to expose original tongue & groove ceilings and log walls.
- Preparing a restroom for refurbishment
- Leveling floors to receive new carpeting

WHERE: This site is about 40 minutes west of Laramie, WY. Heated indoor lodging with showers was provided for this project’s volunteer crew.
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