

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Southern Arizona and the Creation of a Transformed Landscape



Enrollees from the Noon Creek CCC Camp near Safford, Arizona, heading out for a work day

**Free Zoom Presentation by
Archaeologist William B. Gillespie**

Thursday April 20, 2023

7 to 8:30 pm Mountain Standard Time

(Same as Pacific Daylight Time)

See next page.



The CCC hired a number of local experienced men, such as this powder man, to provide technical expertise for projects.

To register for the Zoom program go to

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_thTCtZ4TTN2le7V-HF7spw.

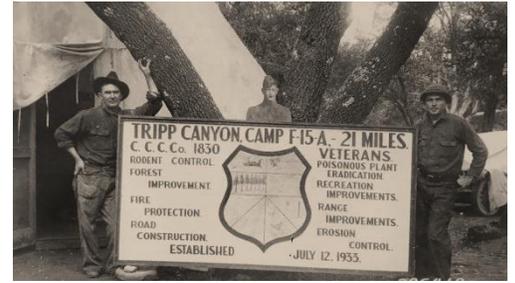
For more information contact Old Pueblo at [520-798-1201](tel:520-798-1201) or info@oldpueblo.org.

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Southern Arizona . . .

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) is widely recognized as one of the most successful of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs that helped bring the country out of the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Some 3.5 million unemployed young men enrolled to work outdoors to protect forests, alleviate erosion, and to develop the infrastructure in thousands of parks.

The CCC was particularly active in southeastern Arizona with nearly 40 camps, each occupied by approximately 100-200 enrollees, in use at various times between 1933 and 1942. Federal agencies and local governments were enthusiastic about making use of this new large labor force. Among the most active participants, the US Forest Service focused on fire prevention and constructing new roads, the National Park Service and Arizona's Pima County emphasized developing infrastructure for recreation, and the then-new US Soil Conservation Service performed extensive erosion-control work. Less well documented, the Indian Division of the CCC employed numerous O'odham workers to develop many new water sources for grazing.

The numerous and wide-ranging accomplishments of CCC crews during their decade of activity had a significant impact on rural landscapes of southeastern Arizona. In this presentation, archaeologist William Gillespie will show how the legacy of the CCC is still very much in evidence throughout the parks, forests, and deserts of the region.



This month's Third Thursday presenter Bill Gillespie

started his archaeological career working in Four Corners country, primarily in and near Mesa Verde National Park in southwest Colorado and Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Anthropology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and participated in six field seasons in the Near East and northeastern Africa including excavating at the Pre-pottery Neolithic site of Ain Ghazal in Jordan.

Bill moved to southern Arizona in 1984 and began working as an archaeologist for the Coronado National Forest in 1989, continuing in that role until retiring at the end of 2015. As Forest Archaeologist he was responsible for overseeing the preservation and management of the numerous and varied heritage sites on the Forest's 1.8 million acres. Many of those sites date to the twentieth century, including ones reflecting activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Bill has longtime interests in the past peoples of the region and their interactions with the landscapes and environments in which they lived and worked.

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