

PRESS RELEASE

Superior National Forest

FOR RELEASE on August 29, 2008

Contact: Kris Reichenbach, 218-626-4393

Passport in Time Project to “Rehab” Historic CCC Guard Cabin On Superior National Forest

In the early years of the Superior National Forest, there were very few roads, campgrounds, or buildings to be found for hundreds of miles. Guard cabins, like the one at the end of the Sawbill Trail, were a welcome comfort for the Forest Guards who regularly patrolled the Superior and other national forests.

The Sawbill guard station is one example of work completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) on public lands across the country during the 1930's – 1940's. A tribute to the quality and utility of the CCCs' work – the Sawbill Guard Cabin has continued to provide a base for Forest Service personnel as they travel in and out of the BWCAW and work in other areas of the Forest.

Even the sturdy construction of the CCCs needs help after decades of service. In September, volunteers will work with Forest Service staff to repair windows and screens, and to install oakum (chinking between logs). Because the cabin is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, rehabilitation must be in harmony with original materials and design.

Work on the Sawbill Guard Cabin will be completed as part of Passport in Time (PIT), a volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program of the US Forest Service. During the PIT project, the public will get a rare opportunity to view the cabin, see the rehabilitation, and learn more about the CCC camp that was located just down the road and the important contributions of the CCCs.

Between 9 am to 3 pm on September 8-12 and again September 15-19, the cabin will be open to the public with interpretive displays and Forest Heritage Program Staff will be on hand to talk with visitors about the history of the cabin and the rehabilitation efforts. To reach the site from Highway 61, turn north onto the Sawbill Trail (Cook County Road #2), and continue to the end of the Trail. The cabin is located just north of the Sawbill Campground.

The current Guard Cabin complex was constructed around 1938 by members of CCC Sawbill Camp F-10. The camp operated from 1933 to 1941 and housed an average of 200 men who performed various conservation and forestry projects including road construction, tree planting, and building. Some signs of the camp remain at the site.

This year (2008) marks the 75th anniversary of the creation of the national CCC program by President Franklin D. Roosevelt with the purpose of putting large number of young unemployed men in the country to work against soil erosion and declining timber resources. The work of the CCCs is an inspiring chapter in the story of the Superior National Forest which will celebrate its centennial in 2009. To learn more, see www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior.