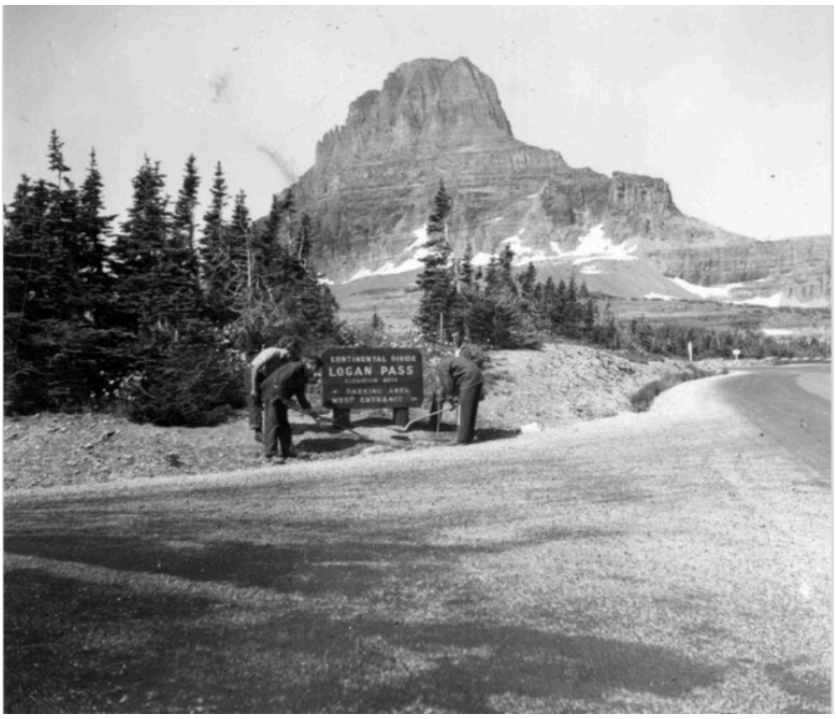
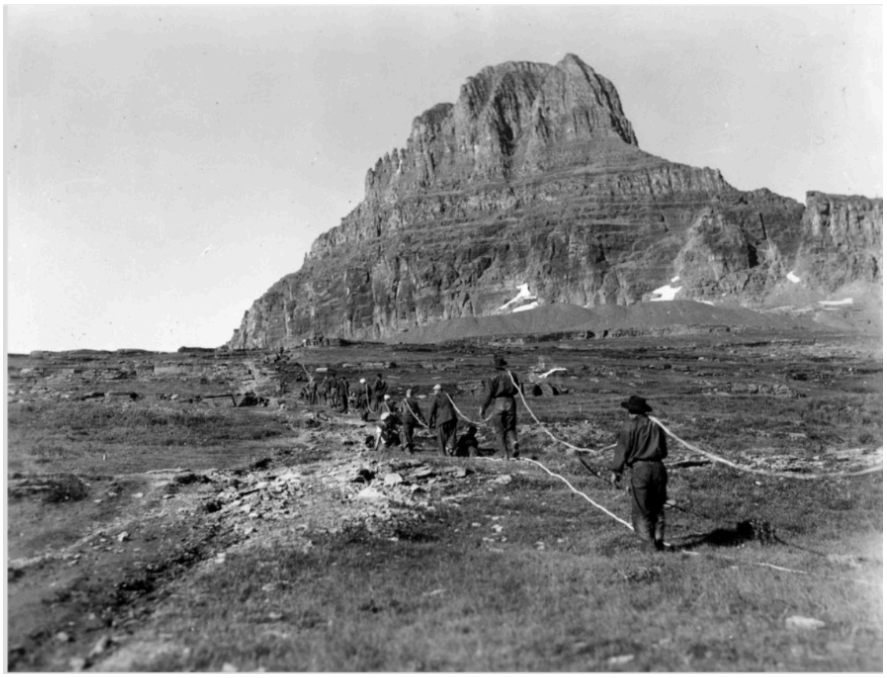
Civilian Conservation Corps in Glacier National Park

Created by: Zowie Caouette



CCC Logan Pass signage 1941 Civilian Conservation Corps members level off the ground after erecting a road sign marking the Continental Divide at the summit of Logan Pass, along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. The sign reads, "Continental Divide, Logan Pass, Elevation 6654." View looks west toward Clements Mountain. Photo taken July 18, 1941.



CCC crew laying transmountain telephone cable line at Logan Pass Civilian Conservation Corps crew laying transmountain telephone cable line at Logan Pass, in Hidden Lake area. Shows several crew members forming a continuous chain, each carrying part of the long cable. View is on Logan Pass, looking west toward Clements Mountain. Photo taken 1938.



CCC boys clean up at Two Med Civilian Conservation Corps boys on clean-up duty, chopping wood in the Two Medicine valley. Photo taken July 6, 1933.

Contextual Paragraph

The Great Depression, lasting from 1929 to 1939, decimated the United States banking system. Unemployment within our country reached a peak of 25% in 1933.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and wanted to tackle this issue. Unemployment was prevalent among young men, as they did not have families to support. On March 31, 1933, Congress passed an act supporting a program, termed "Emergency Conservation Work", where young men would go work in National Parks and National Forests across the country. This program is now referred to as the Civilian Conservation Corps

Within Glacier National Park, eight CCC camps were established between May and June 1933. Upon arrival, camp construction began, then fieldwork specifically cleaning up remnants from the 1929 Halfmoon Fire and the 1936 Heavens Peak fire. Other work included constructing buildings, trails, roads, telephone lines, installing signage and making campsites.

Source: Above text from *Through the Years in Glacier National Park: An Administrative History* by Donald H. Robinson, published by Glacier Natural History Association, Inc. also found here.

Key Questions

1. Why did President Roosevelt send young men to various National Parks and National Forests across the country?
2. Would you have chosen the above projects listed as tasks for them to do in the park? What other tasks would you have found to be important?

Assessment

1. Do you feel that bringing the CCC into Glacier National Park was an effective way to combat unemployment in our country? Why or why not?
2. Do you feel that the projects completed were an effective use of the resources available?

3. Do you think that the impact they had, making their camps, and the work they did was worth having them in Glacier National Park? Why or why not?