RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

In the summer of 1934 the Land Use Adjustment program, which is now known as the Resettlement Administration program, had its origin under the Land Policy section of the AAA. For the first year, or until July 1, 1935, this program was primarily concerned with the purchase of submarginal land and the human problems incidental to the welfare of the economically underprivileged settler. On July 1, 1935 when the Resettlement Administration assumed this program, preliminary acquisition work was well under way on ten projects in Wisconsin. Three of these projects are closely grouped in the cut-over lands of northern Wisconsin. Four of the conservation project areas are located in the south central Wisconsin drainage basin. The remaining three, which are concerned with providing adequate habitat for Indian populations, are located in existing Indian reservations in northern Wisconsin.

Northern Wisconsin settler relocation projects overlap to a considerable extent existing federal, state, and county forests. The contribution made by the Resettlement Administration to conservation on these projects consists largely in consolidating under unified administrative control the scattered land parcels representing holdings of private settlers which federal and state forest administration have not been in a position to acquire. The following table shows that by the purchase of 29,033 acres the Resettlement Administration would block out for federal, state, and county administrations an area totaling 2,274,639 acres.

Project purchase area	2,274,639 acres
U. S. Forest Service	659,848 acres
State Forest	91,273 acres
Indian Lands	12,999 acres
County Forest	221,961 acres
Purchase recommended	29,033 acres
Accepted options	26,402 acres
Acreage acquired	1,567 acres

Progress made in land acquisition on the two central Wisconsin game projects, Necedah and Black River Falls, is shown as follows:

Acreage in project purchase area	152.996
Recommended for purchase	150,170
Under accepted options	147,264
Acreage acquired	9,562

The amount of work involved in searching and clearing title on these lands in order that they be acceptable for final governmental purchase causes unavoidable delay. It is anticipated that this acquisition will not be fully completed before July, 1937.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM

The development program on these projects, which was begun in the fall of 1935, is about one-third completed. Among the more important developmental operations are: 15 concrete impounding dams; 13 miles of dyke; 2,654 acres of forest stand improvement, leaving brush piles for game; 21 miles of trout streams permanently improved; 44 miles of firebreaks constructed; 40 miles of truck trails improved; installation of a skeleton food patch system; and an emergency winter feeding system that can be expanded at any later date to meet demands of increasing game populations.

On the Camp McCoy project the primary objective of the Resettlement Administration has been to bring about a land use adjustment involving purchase of the submarginal farms in the vicinity of the present military reservation and subsequent assistance to the settlers in relocating elsewhere on more productive land. The area thus depopulated is contiguous with the present artillery range on Camp McCoy and is chiefly needed to increase this range and reduce the hazard from army artillery maneuvers. Land acquisition progress is shown as follows:

Acres in project purchase area	13,460
Recommended for purchase	11,000
Under accepted options	9,501
Acquired	320

The developmental program on the Camp McCoy project has been guided along lines most valuable to the army for their special needs and uses. Conservation of natural resources, however, is receiving increasing emphasis from the army on lands they control. It has been the objective of the Resettlement Administration to do for conservation on Camp McCoy everything that can be done consistent with the special military uses involved. The project means conservation of natural resources on forty thousand acres.

The project development is about 41 percent complete. The following operations have been undertaken:

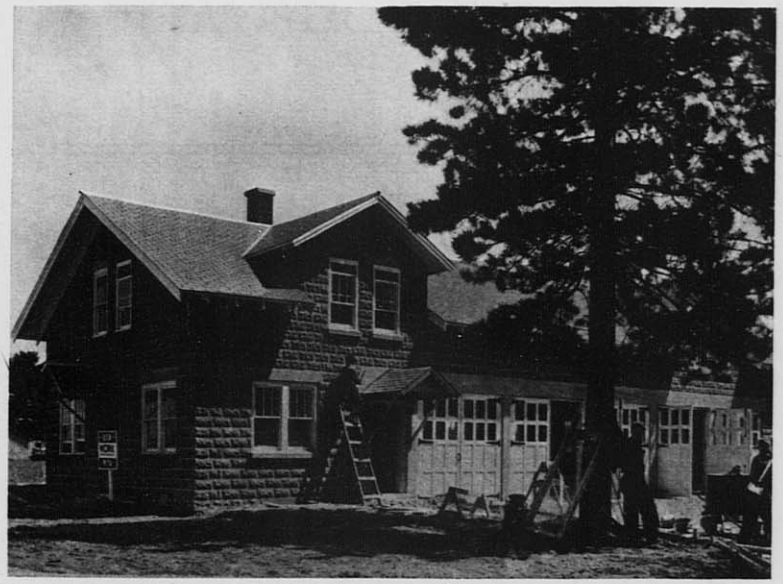
Park roads	9 miles
Firebreaks	22 miles
Reforestation	10 acres
Trout stream improvement	3 miles
Game shelter and winter feeding program.	

The Mill Bluff Roadside Park project is a small tract of land adjacent to the main highways in central Wisconsin near Tomah. The project purchase area of 51.42 acres is under accepted option. It is a scenic spot with naturally occurring geologic features characteristic of the region. A tourist shelter is under construction at the present time, and other facilities for the convenience of campers and picnickers are planned. A small pond is located on the project to which it may be possible to attract shorebirds and immigrant waterfowl for educational purposes. Development of the project is about 50 percent completed.

The Bad River, Lac Court Oreilles, and Stockbridge Indian projects are all located on existing Indian reservations in northern Wisconsin. The objective here is to purchase and restore area lands to the reservation which have passed from their jurisdiction, and in some cases to increase the size of the reservations by the purchase of new land. Although no development of these lands is contemplated, the projects are considered to be a very worthwhile contribution to conservation in Wisconsin. The present status of the acquisition program of these projects is as follows:

Project purchase area	212,355 acres
Recommended for purchase	49,364 acres
Accepted options	47,608 acres
Acquired	940 acres

The provision of adequate reservation facilities for these Indians will, it is hoped, materially simplify the administration of neighboring conservation areas.



Ranger station and garage built by the WPA at Conover in Vilas county. It is one of 21 similar buildings under construction by the WPA in forest protection districts to provide convenient office headquarters for forest rangers and adequate storage space for tools, trucks, and fire-fighting equipment.