

General Information

The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Corrections, operates nine conservation camps throughout the state. The Conservation Camp Program provides training programs to inmates, wildland fire suppression crews, and a skilled labor force for conservation projects, community assistance and emergency situations. Each conservation camp typically fields eight 12 man crews providing a variety of projects and services.

Activities include: Forest and rangeland management; forest health improvement (insect and disease); wildfire prevention, suppression and rehabilitation; soil conservation, disturbed site reclamation, tree pruning, watershed improvement (water quality and quantity), community service projects, and state highway improvements.

History

The Conservation Camp Program began in 1958 with inmates from the Nevada State Prison to perform conservation related activities, including fire suppression. Two camps were established in 1959, one located northwest of Reno on Peavine Mountain and the other on Spooner Summit at Lake Tahoe. The Peavine Camp was closed in 1968 due to the encroachment of neighborhoods. The Spooner Conservation Camp closed in 1970. From 1970 to 1978, the Division did not have a Conservation Camp Program, but continued to use three inmate crews from the Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC) for conservation work assignments.



In 1978, the Stewart Conservation Camp was established just outside the walls of NNCC due to Legislative mandates and the overcrowding of all prison facilities. The Pioche Camp was constructed in 1979. Throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s eight additional camps were added (Three Lakes Valley, Jean, Wells, Ely, Humboldt, Carlin, Tonopah and Silver Springs).

Legislative direction in the early 1990s required the program to generate revenue. The Conservation Camp Program currently generates over three million dollars per year, which assists in funding the program.

In 2008, the Silver Springs Camp was closed by the Department of Corrections due to budget cuts.



Contact Information

Eastern Sierra Conservation Camp

Carson City

Phone: (775) 687-4083

Humboldt Conservation Camp

Winnemucca

Phone: (775) 623-6535

Carlin Conservation Camp

Carlin

Phone: (775) 754-6392

Wells Conservation Camp

Wells

Phone: (775) 478-5129

Ely Conservation Camp

Ely

Phone: (775) 289-1627

Pioche Conservation Camp

Pioche

Phone: (775) 962-5179

Tonopah Conservation Camp

Tonopah

Phone: (775) 482-3250

Three Lakes Valley Conservation Camp

Indian Springs

Phone: (702) 879-1309

Jean Conservation Camp

Jean

Phone: (702) 486-3439

Nevada Division of Forestry Conservation Camp Program



State Headquarters
2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 684-2500

Emergency Responses

Over the past three years, all the Conservation Camps averaged 460,000 hours working on



emergency incidents each year. All incidents not in NDF jurisdiction bring in funding to

support the program. Emergency responses include wildland fire, search and rescue, ice and snow

removal, when there is threat to life and/or property, and flood control.



Over the past few years we have been requested to assist California and other neighboring states in wildland fire control



when their resources are stretched thin. Camp locations within the state allow them to play a pivotal

role in initial attack of fires due to their quick response time to many locations throughout the state.



Project Work

The Camp Program completes a wide variety of project work, focusing on conservation related projects, throughout the state for entities such as:

Local governments – both city and county



State Agencies

- Division of State Lands
- Division of State Parks
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Wildlife

Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Fish and Wildlife Services

Conservation Districts



General Pricing Information

Prices for conservation crew labor varies on the type of project and the location. Please contact your local camp for specific pricing information.

