

Pine Meadows Amphitheater Restoration at Cottage Grove Lake



BEFORE



AFTER

As part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Handshake Partnership Program, two community groups helped renovate the Pine Meadows Campground Amphitheater at Cottage Grove Lake during 2009 and 2010. The amphitheater was originally built over 25 years ago for Corps rangers to present interpretive programs to campers during the summer.

After years of use, the benches and storage shed were deteriorating, and the amphitheater did not accommodate modern audiovisual equipment. The renovated amphitheater includes the following improvements: new wood benches with backs; aisles to provide easier access to middle seats; new lighting and a projection box with electrical outlets at the front of the amphitheater; a larger storage shed; and gravel to provide a more even walking surface.

Boy Scout Troop 140 of Cottage Grove provided 130 hours of volunteer labor toward the restoration of the amphitheater. Tyler Costello provided planning and coordination for the project to help qualify for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Students from Kennedy Alternative High School in Cottage Grove provided 127 hours of labor. The school hosts the Kennedy Conservation Corps (KCC), an experiential education program that includes challenging environmental field work. To provide a complete learning experience, KCC students were involved in all aspects of the amphitheater project, from design to construction.

Since the lake and campground are a short drive from Cottage Grove, many of the local youths who contributed to the amphitheater renovation will visit the lake for recreation activities in the future. Hopefully, being involved in this "legacy" project has given them a sense of pride and stewardship for their local public lands.

For more information about this project, contact Park Ranger Christie Johnson at 541-942-5631.



Boy Scouts dig a trench for electrical wiring.



KCC students place concrete around bench supports.



Scouts spread gravel in the renovated amphitheater.