



**Congress authorized the Mancos Project under the  
Water Conservancy and Utilization  
Act of August 11, 1939.**

**President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Approved the project on October 24, 1940,  
as the eighth "work relief"  
Reclamation project, using  
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)  
and**

**Work Projects Administration (WPA)  
The federal government intended  
for work relief projects to  
stabilize the agricultural industry in  
the projects' area.**

## **Construction History**

**Albert W. Bainbridge, Resident Engineer & Supervisor.  
Reclamation started work on two CCC camps,  
BR-93 and BR-94,  
started July 24, 1941, camps closed July 10, 1942**

In preparation for dam construction by force two CCC companies transferred to BR-93 and BR-94 in October 1941. WPA workers on the Project came from Mancos and the surrounding area, eliminating any need to provide housing for them. WPA workers built the water system for construction and for the CCC camps. The WPA provided labor for construction of Reclamation administration buildings because other work occupied CCC labor.

The Jackson Gulch Reservoir site lay off-stream from the West Mancos River. This required construction of Inlet and Outlet Canals for filling and distributing water from the reservoir. The WPA, and CCC crews from BR-93, BR-94, and NPS-13, began work on the dam and reservoir site in October 1941. Work crews deposited material stripped from the dam site along the sides of the canyon and near the location for the dam's lower toe. They used bulldozers to strip the steep sides of the canyons not suitable for draglines. The dozers then moved the material to points within reach of draglines. Workers from BR-93, BR-94, and NPS-13 cleared portions of the east abutment in November and December of 1941, and, despite the United States' entry into World War II, work continued into January 1942. The Colorado winter of 1941-42 took a heavy toll on Mancos Project CCC forces. Many fell ill due to poor camp conditions, and a large number of enrollees deserted the camps. Adverse weather conditions halted work for several months. The CCC disbanded BR-94 on March 25, 1942. Enrollees from defunct National Park Service camps NPS-5 and NPS-13 transferred to BR-93 in March and April 1942, Work slowed again when Congress dissolved the WPA in June 1942. Stripping operations resumed on May 13, 1942, clearing continued until July 10, 1942, when the federal government eliminated the CCC in the interest of the war effort. The loss of the CCC and WPA programs and workers effectively halted work on the Mancos Project.



77. Garage area CCC camps BR-93 and BR-94.

July 1, 1942

## Camp BR-94



65. Loading Logs for hauling to saw mill. May 12, 1942



71. West abutment from photograph station 1, showing stripping work on lower toe of Jackson Gulch Dam. June 1, 1942