The Foley Butte Block has been managed for commercial timber production since the early 1900s, when it was part of the Alexander-Yawkey Timber Company, one of three major forest products companies to make Crook County and Prineville the ponderosa pine capital of the world. In the 1930s, Alexander-Yawkey made the decision to build several small sawmills in the woods in order to facilitate year-round operations. One of the sites that had mill-worker housing was along Willow Creek, in the western section of the property.



Sawmill along Willow Creek in the 1930s. Source: Crook County Historical Society



Stand 7 in Section 20, along Willow Creek