

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001955 Date Listed: 1/13/92

Fracas Lookout Tree  
Property Name

Coconino                      AZ  
County                              State

National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region TR  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Austinella Allee*  
Signature of the Keeper

1/23/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Areas of Significance, Engineering is added.

This information was confirmed with Evan DeBloois of the U.S. Forest Service.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1953

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Fracas Lookout Tree  
other names/site number AR-03-07-03-1037

2. Location

street & number N/A / /not for publication  
city, town Fredonia /  vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code 86022

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUTS IN THE  
SOUTHWESTERN REGION, USDA FOREST SERVICE

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Ewan D. DeLoos \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7-30-91  
Signature of certifying official

USDA - Forest Service

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Shireen Senner \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4/8/91  
Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation Office  
State Historic Preservation Office

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register. Autumn Creek of Peace 1/13/92  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- other, (explain: ) \_\_\_\_\_

h Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
GOVERNMENT/ Lookout Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)  
N/A

Materials enter categories from instructions)  
foundation  
walls  
roof  
other N/A

## Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### Summary

This isolated historic lookout tree is located on Fracas Ridge near Warm Springs Canyon on the North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest. It is within a Ponderosa pine forest on the Kaibab Plateau at an elevation of 8,160 feet. It is in good condition and retains sufficient integrity to qualify for National Register listing.

### Physical Description

This lookout tree is a straight mature Ponderosa pine approximately 100 feet high and 3 feet in diameter with a ladder constructed up its eastern side. Six segments of ladder works remain. The lower 12-15 feet of the ladder have been removed. The remaining ladder is in good condition. The construction is typical of other ladders on lookout trees: 2" x 4" sidepieces with 1" x 12-14" crosspieces. The lookout tree never had a platform.

Immediately to the east of the tree and at its bottom is a brass cap (8 x 8") set into a concrete and rock patch. The inscription reads "U.S. Dept. of Ag. Forest Service Visible Area Map Point Fire Control Fracas Ridge 10-6-1937".

### Setting

Vegetation surrounding the site currently consists of a few small Ponderosa pines with some grasses and forbs. The entire area is heavily littered with duff and pine cones. It was logged last year (1989) and much debris remains. However, the setting retains much of its historic appearance. A large sinkhole is about 80 meters to the northeast of the tree.

### Integrity

The Fracas Lookout Tree is still in good condition, despite having been abandoned for approximately 40 years. Only the lower 15 feet of ladder has been removed, for safety purposes. It is still readily identifiable as a lookout tree facility and thus retains the level of integrity defined in the continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A    B    C    D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)      Period of Significance      Significant Dates

Conservation  
Politics/Government      1905-1940      1937

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person      Architect/Affiliation

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

Fracas Lookout Tree is significant under Criterion A [36 CFR 60.6] for its association with 1) the development of forest fire prevention, detection, and control by the USDA Forest Service between 1905 and 1940, and 2) the conservation movement and its influence on public land management from 1905 to 1940. It is also significant under Criterion C [36 CFR 60.6] because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction, the earliest and simplest form of fire detection structure, built into a living tree.

Historic Contexts/ Background

The date of construction for this lookout tree, like other lookout trees, is currently unknown. The 1937 brass cap marker is the only one found in association with a lookout tree on the Kaibab National Forest, and it does indicate that the tree was in use at that time. The marker indicates that this tree was an integral part of the Kaibab National Forest fire planning system. The "Fracas Ridge Tree Lookout" appears in the Kaibab National Forest "Fire Control Visible Area Map." The "seen area" fieldwork was conducted by "H.T. and A.G.W." on October 6, 1937, correlating with the date on the associated brass cap marker.

Fracas Lookout Tree may have been abandoned in the 1960s, as other trees on the North Kaibab Ranger District were. Aside from the brass cap marker, this was a typical lookout tree facility.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Fire Control Visible Area Map, on file at Camp Clover Ranger Station fire office, Kaibab National Forest, Williams, Arizona.

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State hist. preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kaibab National Forest,  
Williams, AZ

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property less than one

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UTM References

A 1|2| 3|8|6|4|0|0| 4|0|5|7|8|0|0|  
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the site is a square measuring 10 meters by 10 meters centering on the tree itself (see accompanying sketch map).

See continuation sheet

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Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lookout tree and its immediate area only.

See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Marietta A. Davenport, and Teri A. Cleeland, Archeologists

organization USDA Forest Service Kaibab Natl. Forest date 5-22-90

street & number 430 South Main telephone 602-643-7395

city or town Fredonia state AZ zip code 86022

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

PHOTOGRAPHS Page 1

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS THE SAME FOR ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING THIS NOMINATION:

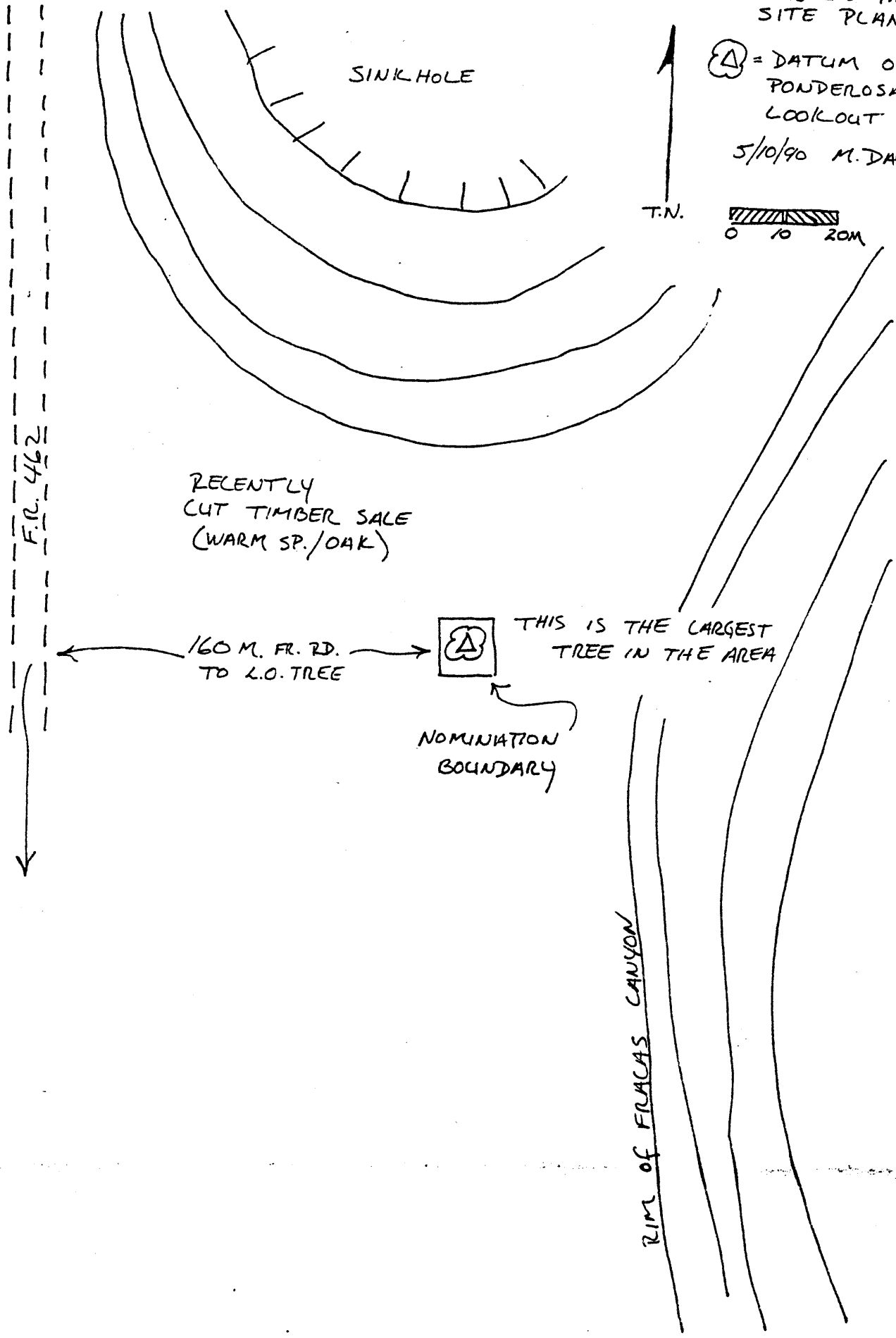
- 1). Fracas Lookout Tree
- 2). Vicinity of Grand Canyon, North Rim, southwest of Jacob Lake, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona
- 3). John C. Davenport
- 4). May 1990
- 5). North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest, Fredonia, Arizona

INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 6). Facing southwest, tree in its recently logged setting.
- 7). #1
- 8). Facing west, base of tree showing ladder.
- 9). #2
- 10). East side of tree, detail of brass cap marker.
- 11). #3

FRACAS L.O. TREE  
SITE PLAN

⊙ = DATUM ON  
PONDEROSA PINE  
LOOKOUT TREE  
5/10/90 M. DAVENTPORT



SINK HOLE

T.N.

0 10 20M

F.R. 462

RECENTLY  
CUT TIMBER SALE  
(WARM SP./OAK)

160 M. FR. RD.  
TO L.O. TREE



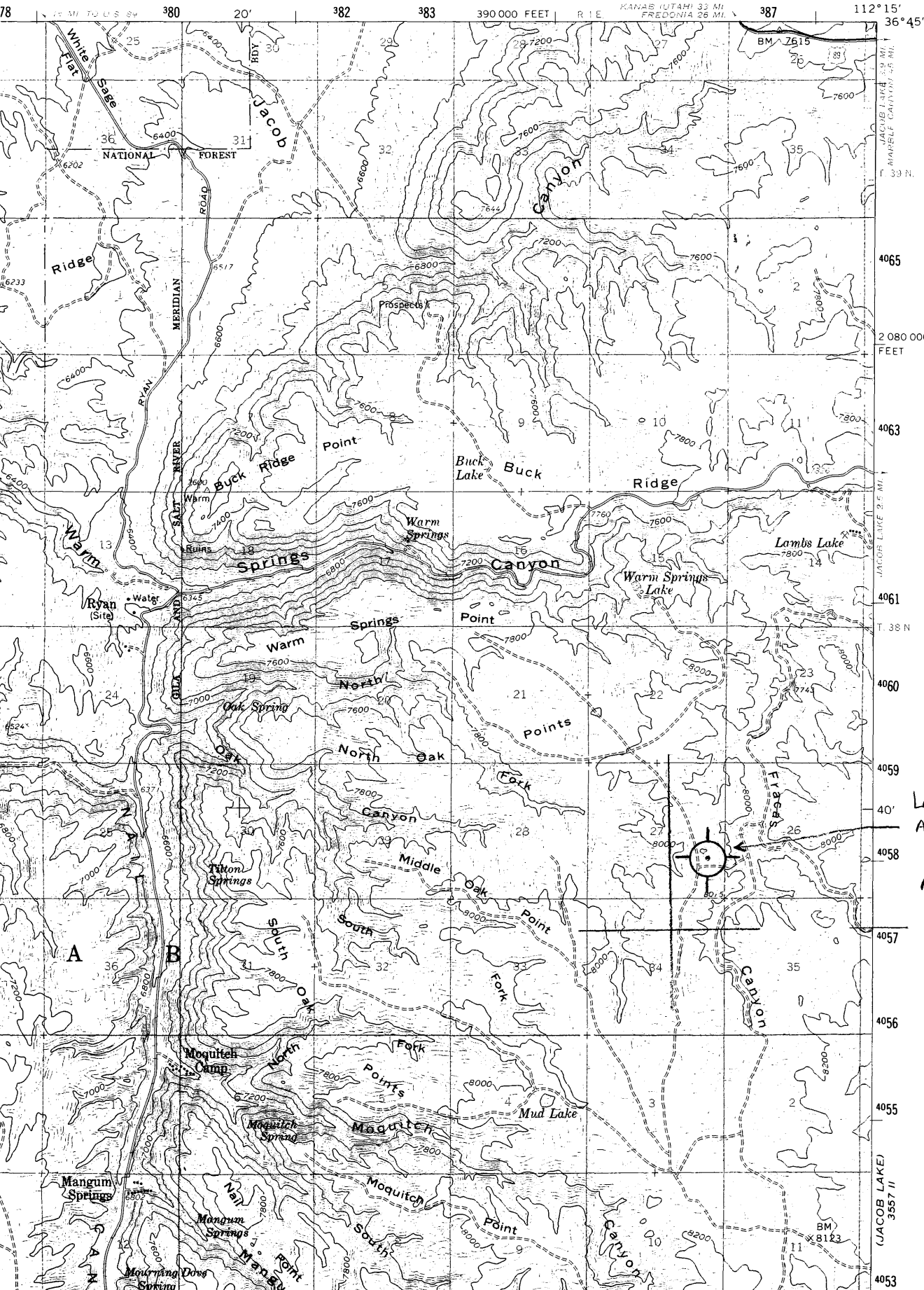
THIS IS THE LARGEST  
TREE IN THE AREA

NOMINATION  
BOUNDARY

RIM OF FRACAS CANYON

BIG SPRINGS QUADRANGLE  
 ARIZONA-COCONINO CO.  
 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

35571  
 HOUSE ROCK SPRING



FRACAS  
 LOOKOUT TREE  
 AR-03-07-03 1037  
 ZONE 12  
 N 40 57 800  
 E 3 86 400