

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Hoodoo Ridge Lookout

other names/site number Hoodoo Ridge Lookout Historic District

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number Umatilla National Forest, Walla Walla Ranger District not for publication

city or town Troy vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Wallowa code 063 zip code 97885

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A ___ B C ___ D

Jeffrey B. Walkey Signature of certifying official/Title: PNW Regional Heritage Program Manager Date 3/25/15

U.S. Forest Service
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature] Signature of commenting official Date 12-5-14

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Title Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain) _____

For Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5-20-15

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		site
2	1	structure
		object
5	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Fire Lookout

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Fire Lookout

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD: Board, Shake

METAL: 20" Galvanized Steel

roof: WOOD: Shingle

METAL: Aluminum

other: METAL: Steel; WOOD: Board, Pole

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

Nestled in the Umatilla National Forest (Forest) of northeastern Oregon, the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is a Forest Service fire lookout initially constructed in 1925 with a single crow's nest and expanded in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to include a larger tower and three buildings.¹ From its construction to the 1970s, the site served as a fire lookout and (from 1933) crew living quarters from which to detect fires and other environmental occurrences within and around the Forest as it provided a better vantage than the nearby southern Long Meadows Guard Station.² The Lookout lies seven miles west of Troy, Oregon, within Wallowa County at an elevation of 4,200 feet. Surrounded by dense forest, the site encompasses two discontinuous areas totaling 0.694 acres of relatively flat terrain sloping downward to the northwest that hosts five historic buildings and structures (all of which are contributing): the lookout tower structure, cabin, garage, outhouse, and crow's nest. Accessible by Forest Road 620091 (not a contributing feature), the southern area includes the 1933 CCC group of four structures that sit to the south of the road in an L-shape covering an area of 0.58 acres. First encountered from the road is the lookout tower, a tall and slender structure of steel with a galvanized cab at the top. Southwest of the tower is a line of structures: from north to south is the cabin, garage, and outhouse, all of which are wood-sided, rectangular structures with steeply pitched roofs. The structures sit approximately 50 feet from one another and are encompassed by a rectangular boundary of arbitrary lines generally 50 feet from the structures. Slightly to the northwest by 0.35 miles of the 1933 group is the 1925 crow's nest (the second area) situated on and within a tall ponderosa pine tree. A semblance of a wood ladder leads up the tree to the wood platform that is perched at the top. The boundaries of the crow's nest contain the tree itself, wood platform structure, and surrounding area of 60 to 100 feet from the tree, for a total of 0.114 acres. The overall site overlooks the surrounding Umatilla National Forest while the perch of the steel lookout tower and crow's nest afford expansive views of the Wehena–Tucannon Wilderness to the north and the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington.

Narrative Description

The Umatilla National Forest Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is a group of five structures situated on a high elevation, slightly downward sloping plane. The site sits within dense forest of mountainous terrain roughly 2.25 miles south of the Wenaha River and 3.5 miles south of the Washington State border. The site's high elevation, setting, and built structures facilitated early-twentieth century fire-detection for the Umatilla National Forest and surrounding Blue Mountains. The site comprises two discontinuous areas separated by 0.35 miles that include the southern 1933 CCC tower and buildings group and the northern 1925 crow's nest. The two sites straddle Forest Road 620090, just north of Forest Road 62.

South of Forest Road 620091, a spur road leading east from Forest Road 620090, is the 1933 building group that encompasses 0.58 acres and contains four structures built by the CCC. The 1933 structures are situated in an L-shape just south of the road. First accessed off of the road is the Aermotor 101' steel tower with a 7' x 7' cab perched at the top. Just southwest of the tower is a line of buildings stretching southward. From north to south are the cabin, garage, and outhouse. Walking paths on the east sides of the buildings lead from one entrance to another and the northeastern tower. Bordered by dense forest, the site has no distinguished landscaping but rather blends with the surrounding environment. Historic

¹ USDA Forest Service. Records of the Umatilla National Forest. Pendleton, Oregon.

² Ibid.

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photographs reveal that a large timber railing 36" from the ground surrounded the house and garage. This railing is no longer extant.

To the northwest of Forest Road 6200090 is the 1925 crow's nest, situated within a ponderosa pine tree that encompasses an area of 0.114 acres. The crow's nest is reached by a rough walking path from the road and is surrounded by dense forest, blending in with the environment. There are no other associated features within this northern boundary. See Boundary Map, Site Sketch Plans, and Photos 1 through 12.

Crow's Nest, 1925 (Contributing)

Constructed in 1925 by the Umatilla National Forest,³ the crow's nest is a vertical, wooden structure built on and up a 36 inch wide by 110' tall ponderosa pine tree. The original design included a wooden pole ladder that wound up to the top of the tree where there was a 6' wood platform with railing for a person to stand and oversee the forest and surrounding area.

Approximately 55' of the ladder remains presently with 33' on the southwestern trunk and 22' on the eastern/southeastern trunk. The bottom portion of the ladder is no longer extant. The ladder is found on two sides of the tree as it changed direction on its way up the tree to avoid limbs. The ladder is constructed of 4" wooden pole uprights with 18" wide rungs made of 2" x 4" wooden boards that are 1' apart. The ladder is secured out from the tree trunk by 2" x 4" wooden boards and 9" wire fastened to the tree limbs and trunk.

The ladder extends up the eastern/southeastern trunk to a hole in the eastern/southeastern side of the platform where entry can be gained to the platform or "crow's nest." The platform is a 6' x 6' area of wooden planks held together by a frame of 2" x 4" wooden boards beneath fastened to the tree trunk. A 4" wood pole railing lines the perimeter of the platform for safety.

Two ceramic telephone insulators are found 15' up the tree from the base, one brown and one white, which provided telephone service to the southern Hoodoo Ridge Lookout and/or Long Meadows Guard Station. A wire extending from the tree reveals where a third insulator was once fixed but is no longer extant. The crow's nest is densely surrounded by forest and has no other exterior features.

The structure is in good condition and maintains its integrity as no alterations or modifications to the tree or structure have occurred. See Photo 1 and Figure 6.

Lookout Tower Building #4221, 1933 (Contributing)

Constructed in 1933 by the CCC,⁴ the Hoodoo Ridge tower is an Aermotor 101' steel tower with a 7' x 7' steel cab at the top. The Aermotor steel tower was originally designed as a windmill tower by the Aermotor Company of Chicago, IL, beginning in 1888. The company began producing observation towers for many of the nation's forests in 1926.

The tower is 101' tall, approximately 22' wide at the base, and 7' wide at the top. It is thought to be either a Model MC-39 or -40 and features four legs, eight landings and a cab landing, and X bracing or struts fastened on all four sides between the tower legs to provide structural support. Between each landing is a section of stairs fastened to a short steel landing attached to a corner of the tower. These sections of stairs run from landing to landing (corner to corner) in a diagonal pattern. The bottom four sections of stairs have 18 steps each, the fifth section has 17 steps, the sixth section has 14 steps, the seventh

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

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section has 12 steps, and the last two top sections have 9 steps each. Safety features within the staircase include a metal handrail on each side of the stairs and wooden tread on all steps.

On top of the tower is a 7' x 7' steel cab, which is entered through a trap door in the floor on the west-cab side. The cab has a low pitched (1'4") hipped roof with a ventilator and cap on top. The roof is covered with 20-gauge steel fastened with bolts. All four elevations feature a pair of nine-light, metal sash windows measuring 4' high and spanning the entire width (7'). One window is fixed while the other is an awning sash hinged on the center of the sides to swing open (bottom swings out). Below the windows is 20-gauge galvanized siding measuring 3' 6" high. Inside the cab, the floor is covered with 3' wood tongue-and-groove boards. In the center of the room is a wooden stand for an Osborne fire finder, an alidade (turning board device) used to find a directional bearing (azimuth) to smoke in order to alert fire crews to a wildland fire. See Figure 11.

The structure is in good condition and maintains its integrity as no alterations or modifications to the tower or cab have occurred. See Photos 2 through 5 and Figures 7, 9, and 10.

Cabin Building #1043, 1933 (Contributing)

Constructed in 1933 by the CCC,⁵ the Hoodoo Ridge cabin is a one-story, wood-framed, rectangular-shaped building measuring 20'5" x 14'5" with a poured-concrete foundation. The cabin has a steeply-pitched gable roof with a closed rake and moderate eave overhang with exposed rafters. The wood shingle roof has been covered with corrugated metal. A small brick chimney is centered on the south slope near the ridge. The cabin is clad with 6" wide horizontal single "V" rustic siding. A louvered vent on the eastern gable indicates CCC architecture.

The cabin has two entrances, one each on the northern and eastern elevations. The main entrance on the northern elevation is a wood-framed, single-door currently covered with plywood. Covering the entrance is a porch with a shed roof supported by two square posts and has simple balustrades on each side of the wood stoop. The second entrance on the eastern elevation is a wood-framed, single-door currently covered with plywood and is accessed by a small wood stoop. The cabin has a total of four windows, including a single window on each of the northern and eastern elevations and two windows on the western elevation. The windows are currently boarded over with plywood.

The building is in good condition and maintains its integrity. In September 2001, Passport in Time volunteers cleaned the building and covered openings (doors and windows) in order to keep rodents out and deterioration from occurring. Volunteers also painted the building exterior white with green trim. No work took place to remove or replace any historic fabric or design. See Photos 6 through 8 and Figure 8.

Garage Building #1533, 1933 (Contributing)

Constructed in 1933 by the CCC,⁶ the Hoodoo Ridge garage is a single-car, one-story, wood-framed, rectangular structure measuring 18' x 16'4," with a poured-concrete foundation. The garage has a steeply pitched gable roof covered with wooden shingles. The roof has a closed rake and moderate eave overhangs with exposed rafters. The garage is clad with 6" wide, horizontal single "V" rustic siding.

The garage has one entrance for a single car measuring 9'7" on the eastern elevation. Two sliding doors for the entrance are constructed of vertical 3 1/2" single "V" rustic siding. The exterior of each door is trimmed with 6" wide flat boards and has "X" cross-braces of similar boards. One small fixed window with wood trim is centered on the western elevation.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

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The building is in good condition and maintains its integrity. In summer of 2002, Passport in Time volunteers cleaned the building and painted the exterior white with green trim. No work took place to remove or replace any historic fabric or design. See Photos 9 and 10 and Figure 8.

Outhouse Building #14606-1, unknown, possibly historic (Contributing)

The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout outhouse was likely constructed in 1933 by the CCC⁷ during the construction of the three other structures at the site, though no records are available. The outhouse is a one-story, wood-framed, rectangular-shaped building measuring 5'3 1/2" x 4'4" with a poured-concrete foundation. The outhouse has a steeply-pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles and features closed rakes and eaves. The outhouse has a single entrance found on the eastern elevation that features a simple wood-paneled door framed with wood trim.

The exterior walls are covered with 1' high split-cedar shakes that extend halfway up into the gable and feature corner boards measuring 4"x 5/8." The top half of the gable ends are covered with mesh for ventilation and trimmed with wood boards. The unfinished interior of the outhouse reveals sheathing of 5" horizontal boards attached to 2'x4' studs. The floor is made of 3 1/4" tongue and groove boards.

Though its age cannot be determined, the outhouse is known to be constructed sometime before 1953. The newer foundation and split-cedar siding suggest that the outhouse post-dates the other structures or had renovations around the early mid-century. The building is in very good condition and maintains its integrity as no real alterations have occurred. See Photos 11 and 12.

⁷ Ibid.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1925-1933

Significant Dates

1925, Crow's nest constructed

1933, CCC construction

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Forest Service (Architect/Builder)

CCC (Architect/Builder)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance encompasses the construction period of the Lookout and advancement of technology at the station between 1925 and 1933.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Built by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) for the Umatilla National Forest, the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is significant to the State of Oregon under National Register Criteria A and C under the areas of conservation, politics/government, and architecture with a period of significance of 1925 to 1933. The period of significance encompasses the period of construction and advancement of fire suppression technology at the station. The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is eligible as a historic district for listing under Criterion A due to its associations with events significant to history, including the development of USFS fire-detection, suppression, and lookout sites on forest land in the state of Oregon. It is also associated with the CCC, a Depression-era federal work relief program that assisted the USFS with the development of infrastructure, lookout sites, and fire support on national forests and represents a regional expression of this federal program in Oregon. Additionally, the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is eligible as a historic district under Criterion C as the station's structures are representative types of USFS lookout station architecture built by foresters and the CCC using common and standardized plans for the structures, including the crow's nest, Aermotor MC-39 -40 tower and cab, and administrative-type buildings. While there are other USFS lookout sites constructed within similar time periods throughout the state of Oregon and Umatilla National Forest, the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is unique as one of the best examples of an intact lookout site of specialized structural types in the state of Oregon, including an early primitive lookout, manufactured steel tower, and CCC ground buildings that embody the history of USFS fire management and progression of fire-detection architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is eligible for listing as a historic district at the state level in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The station is eligible under Criterion A for its association with conservation through the development of US Forest Service fixed-point fire-detection and management within the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) and on the Umatilla National Forest. The network of lookout stations constructed throughout the Region served as the most vital part of fulfilling the US Forest Service mission of fire management. A part of this network, the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout provided fire crews and Forest staff with an elevated view of the surrounding forest area from which to detect fires and implement suppression. The site is an excellent example of the progression of fire-detection methods, needs, technologies, and infrastructure. This is seen through the primitive crow's nest, which allowed observers to simply spot a smoke curl through a looking glass, and the subsequent station with a steel tower and cab that provided a sheltered room for an observer to use advanced fire-detection tools such as the Osborne Fire Finder. The associated living quarters below the tower reveal the need for permanent staff to live at the station during fire season and provide staff with comfortable accommodations (in contrast to the earlier tent-living beneath the crow's nest). This lookout is also an example of a type of lookout station used within the Umatilla National Forest, Oregon, and broader Pacific Northwest Region to address densely covered terrain. The terrain of Hoodoo Ridge required a tall tower to view over the tree line, and thus only supported a small cab with room enough for the observatory. This required living quarters on the ground and is opposed to other types of lookouts used on clear summits of forested Oregon that supported larger cabs on shorter towers and combined the observatory and living space into one room.

The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is eligible for listing as a historic district in the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with federal and state politics and government, specifically through the New Deal era CCC. The men of the Oregon CCC camps were responsible for constructing Forest Service infrastructure and providing a much-needed labor force. The CCC was a federal work-relief program created in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation that employed young men to work in the areas of reforestation, road construction, soil erosion prevention, constructing buildings and recreation sites on national forests, flood control projects, and fire protection. As fire management remained the number-one priority on national forests, CCC labor was vital in constructing fire-detection infrastructure and providing fire-suppression labor. The CCC constructed nearly half of the Pacific Northwest's and Umatilla National Forest's lookout towers and associated

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buildings, including the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout. This surge in infrastructure allowed the Forest Service in Oregon and Umatilla National Forest to fulfill its aim of fixed-point fire-detection by doubling the coverage of fire lookouts on the forests to pinpoint more exact fire locations. This infrastructure remained a vital tool on national forest lands in Oregon into the late twentieth-century, when fire-detection technology again changed.

The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is eligible for listing as a historic district in the NRHP under Criterion C as an excellent and dual example of a Forest Service lookout type. The first example of a lookout type at the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is the 1925 crow's nest. Crow's nests were initially constructed by lookout-persons to avoid having to hang from a tree to observe the terrain for a fire. Simple wood steps or a ladder led up to a platform at the top of the tree to provide a lookout with a place to stand. The Hoodoo Ridge crow's nest is almost fully intact and reveals how lookout-persons built the ladder around the trunk to avoid branches and reach the platform. The Hoodoo Ridge crow's nest is the only remaining lookout of its type left on the Umatilla as all other crow's nests have deteriorated or been removed. The 1933 lookout structure is an excellent and intact example of a steel Aermotor MC-39 or -40 tower and cab. Originally designed for windmills, Aermotor towers became excellent bases for Forest Service lookout cabs due to their sturdy base and height of over 100'. The MC-39 and -40 models came as a kit, including the steel tower with interior diagonal staircase and 7' x 7' steel cab. Because of their height, these structures required a smaller cab than other Forest Service lookout types that combined living and work space. As the 7' x 7' cab only provided room for the observatory, living quarters were constructed nearby on the ground. The house, garage, and outhouse beneath the Hoodoo Ridge Aermotor tower reflect the needs of this type of lookout to construct housing on the ground. Finally, the house, garage, and outhouse are an intact example of Forest Service Depression-era and CCC administrative architecture. The buildings are based on standardized building plans and further exhibit the CCC utilitarian style with "V" rustic and cedar-shake siding, steeply pitched gable roofs, and close spatial relationships to promote efficiency and compatibility with the surrounding environment. The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is the only remaining lookout station on the Umatilla National Forest and within the state of Oregon featuring an Aermotor tower to retain all of its original structures, ground buildings, and earlier primitive lookout (crow's nest), rendering the Lookout a unique, intact station within the state.

Forest Service Fire-Detection and Lookout Stations

In 1905, Congress transferred jurisdiction over the Forest Reserves from the Department of Interior to the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USFS), marking the beginning of a new management and development era within the new agency. With the transfer came a lasting shift in forest management and philosophy from "reserving" forests to emphasizing "long-term managed use" and conservation. Among the major themes in national forest administration (changed from forest reserves in 1907), fire suppression was a primary focus of forest management and conservation. The fires that ravaged the forests of the Northern Rockies and elsewhere in the dry, hot summer of 1910 had also taken over 80 human lives, destroyed entire towns, and consumed miles of railroad. This catastrophe heightened the American public's awareness about the need for fire prevention and control. Moreover, it elevated the need for fire suppression carried out by the Forest Service.⁸

During the Forest Reserve period, the General Land Office had little opportunity to prevent or detect fires, let alone to suppress them with its notoriously understaffed Forest Reserve ranger cadre. After the establishment of the Forest Service, the earliest rangers spent much of their time "chasing smokes" and battling blazes with hand tools. At the time, national forests had few roads so rangers built pack trails to link the remote "guard stations" that sheltered the seasonal fire guards. The Forest Service had little systematic organization for fire-detection other than the random efforts of individual Forest Service employees; this labor supply was often inadequate. The Forest Service was determined to do better, but it needed to create practical, successful policies of fire management. The first target was improved fire prevention.⁹

⁸ Kay Atwood, Sally Donovan, Dennis Gray, and Ward Tonsfeldt, *Utility and Service Combined with Beauty: A Contextual and Architectural History of the USDA Forest Service Region 6: 1905-1960*. (Pacific Northwest Region: Bend, Oregon, April, 2005), 12, 15, 20.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 21.

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Passage of the Weeks Act of 1911 authorized the Forest Service to cooperate with state and private agencies to create a fire-protection system. The Forest Service also depended on ranchers and farmers in the region to aid in fire-detection. As a result, the Forest Service committed to developing a “fixed-point detection” system using new tools, advanced technologies, and a network of fire observation points.¹⁰

During the late 1910s and 1920s, the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) implemented numerous technological advances in fire control, such as, the ground-return telephone, the 1917 Osborne Fire Finder, an alidade-type sighting device used to pinpoint a fire’s location, and photogrammetry. Important tools also appeared on the fire lines, such as the backpack pump tank and the pulaski, a combination axe and grub-hoe named for its inventor Edward Pulaski, a Forest Service hero of the 1910 fires. Apart from regulations on forest lands and new technologies, the most important means of detecting fires became the agency’s new network of fire observation or lookout stations stretching across the West.¹¹

Lookout Types, 1910-1953

The nationwide model for lookout construction was first developed by California District Forester Coert duBois in his 1914 comprehensive plan titled “*Systematic Fire Protection in the California Forests.*” duBois reasoned that fire lookouts should be located at high vantage points on mountain and ridge tops with open views where smoke from fires could be readily observed throughout the forest landscape. In constructing a lookout station, duBois stated that each design should adhere to specific principles: lookouts should have a combination living-working space, have insulation against lightning, and most importantly, provide a maximum view from all vantages inside the building.¹²

As most forests in the 1910s could not immediately afford to build lookout stations according to duBois’ recommendations for enclosed structures, they made do with the local materials and resources they had available. In many instances, the lookout-person stayed at a tent “rag camp” at the nearest spring and hiked each day up to the summit and stood on large rock faces. For locations that did not have exposed viewing areas because of trees, a lookout-person climbed the tallest tree on the peak for a better view. When climbing up and hanging on to a tree trunk became a nuisance, resourceful lookouts built steps or ladders up the trunk. Eventually, ladders led up the trunk to a platform built at the apex of a “topped” tree (tree with whole tops or large branches removed) that was enclosed with a safety railing. These “crow’s nests” as they were called served as the first type for constructed lookouts.¹³

As lookout stations became critical components of the fixed-point fire-detection system, various lookout types developed over the next several decades from primitive vantage points and crow’s nests to more sophisticated designs based on duBois’ principles. Like Forest Service administrative buildings,¹⁴ foresters found it economical and more efficient to design standardized plans for lookout stations, which could be built quickly by the average Forest Service employee rather than a skilled carpenter. Numerous designs developed throughout the various Regions of the Forest Service, though Regions shared their designs with others; lookout design names often included the Region number (or earlier District number), to identify where the design originated.¹⁵

In the Pacific Northwest Region, it became increasingly important to construct lookout stations that protected lookout-persons from the variable weather conditions that high elevations within the mountains can present even during the summer. Based on the premise of the crow’s nest design, foresters designed the new lookouts to include a wider and enclosed cab or cupola either situated on the ground or atop a wood or steel

¹⁰ Ibid., 61.

¹¹ Atwood et al., 20-21, 69; Jan M. Tomlinson, *Fire Lookouts and Associated Structures on the Umatilla National Forest: A Determination of Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places*, USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region: Umatilla National Forest, 2002.

¹² Tomlinson, 9.

¹³ Ibid.; Atwood et al., 68;

¹⁴ Forest Service administrative buildings have been thoroughly evaluated and documented in several places. For the historic context for Region 6 administrative sites, see Atwood et al., 39-96.

¹⁵ Tomlinson, 15.

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tower structure. The general design of a cab or cupola consisted of a wood or steel, square-shaped structure with a hipped roof and full-width windows with shutters on all four elevations. Siding and roofing material consisted of either metal or wood. The simple interior of the cab or cupola provided room for an observatory with the Osborne Fire Finder, circular map tables, and could also support room for living quarters.

The D-6 Cupola (designed in District 6) served as the first standardized lookout structure with living quarters in the Pacific Northwest. Elijah "Lige" Coalman designed the prototype for use at the summit of Mt. Hood in 1915. The 12' x 12' main floor of the wood-frame, hipped roof cupola lookout had windows on all sides, and a small, glassed-in upper floor observatory (1/4 the size of the bottom). The first floor served as the living quarters while the glass cupola provided the view. The windows lining each elevation had shutters for when the lookout house was not in use. Both roofs were covered with cedar shingles. Coalman's cupola was staffed until 1935, and survived until 1941 when it unfortunately toppled over and fell into a deep crevasse. A prefabricated D-6 cupola lookout, slightly modified from the original by a manufacturer, became the standard lookout design for the Region over the next decade. The D-6 kit was relatively easy to pack and build, and when completed it was efficient and sturdy. A few D-6 structures were built atop low towers, but most of them were ground cabins.¹⁶

In the late 1920s, the agency sought less-cumbersome lookout kits by dispensing with the second-story, and incorporated duBois' design principle of combining the living quarters and observatory within a single floor. As the D-6 did not fulfill this need, in 1929 Pacific Northwest foresters implemented duBois' 4-A California design, a 14' x 14' wood-frame structure with full-width windows and heavy shutters, hipped roof, and catwalk. This Region 5 standard plan served as the predecessor to what became the most popular lookout design in the Pacific Northwest—the L-4 plan, which could be built on shorter towers or placed on the ground. The Aladdin Company of Portland, Oregon, a manufacturer for prefabricated homes, served as the primary manufacturer of the L-4 plan by prefabricating and selling the L-4 as a kit, giving the L-4 the nickname "Aladdins."¹⁷

Four versions of the L-4 designed in various Regions came out in 1929, 1931, 1932, and 1936, each a slight variation on the original 4-A 14' x 14' cab design and each an improvement on the last. The 1929 version boasted a gable roof, a rarity among lookouts, nine-light casement windows that extended across each elevation, and wood shiplap siding. By 1932, foresters revised the plan to a hipped roof version that provided greater structural stability under snow loads. The windows also changed to include four-light sashes, which provided better visibility and easier cleaning. The 1936 modification addressed concerns for better securing the shutters to the cab roof overhang with 2" x 2" pine struts called "outriggers" and also applied V rustic siding. While there continued to be further slight modifications to the plan, the 1936 design served as the standard and most common plan in the Pacific Northwest, until 1953 when the design was retired.¹⁸

In 1933, increased funds available through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal program and the resulting labor from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) permitted the Forest Service to achieve one of its ultimate goals in fixed-point fire-detection: coverage of the backcountry was doubled with the construction of a large number of new lookouts.¹⁹

Under the New Deal program to correct the nation's severe economic, social, and environmental problems, the CCC took shape and by July 1933 enrollment reached over 300,000. Divided across the country into districts and further into companies housed at individual camps, the CCC brought together two of the nation's assets—natural resources and idle young men—in order to reclaim both. Heeding FDR's principle that work-relief projects 'should be useful,' the Forest Service employed CCC crews to fight fire and blight (blister-rust), replant trees, as well as create and maintain infrastructure such as ranger and guard stations, lookout towers, recreation areas, and transportation routes.²⁰

¹⁶ Ibid.; Atwood et al., 68-69.

¹⁷ Tomlinson, 17; Atwood, 69.

¹⁸ Tomlinson, 17-19; Atwood, 71.

¹⁹ Atwood et al., 71.

²⁰ Ibid., 25-32.

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To aid the agency's top priority of fire prevention, forests focused CCC crew work on building fire-detection infrastructure and fighting fires. With more lookouts throughout the Region, the extra eyes allowed the Forest Service to use two separate lookout stations to report the locations of a given fire. The ranger station then used the information to triangulate a more accurate map location of the fire, improving the capacity of the fixed-point fire-detection system.²¹

During this expansion of lookout stations, CCC crews and forest staff built smaller versions of the L-4 cab: the L-5 and L-6 cab styles. The L-5 measured 10' x 10' and featured a hipped roof and three, four-light window sashes on each elevation with shutters propped up on the catwalk railing. Foresters produced two types of L-6 plans: an 8' x 8' or a "Standard 7' x 7' Lookout House." Usually accessed through a trapdoor in the floor, the L-6 cab had a narrow catwalk around its perimeter, a shake or shingle hipped roof, narrow eaves, and three six-light windows on a half wall of horizontal exterior siding. Large window shutters, hinged under the eave, formed sun-shades when lifted and braced for viewing. The L-6 lookout towers ranged from 10' to 100' high. Because of its small size, this style generally only provided room for the observatory. Crews instead lived in separate quarters on the ground in standard-plan housing at the site or at a nearby guard station.²²

The budget and labor constraints of World War II resulted in the cessation of the CCC and like programs, and subsequently, little new lookout construction occurred in Region 6. Any new construction replaced deteriorated towers or implemented new plans designed to save on funding. After the long success of the L-4s, in 1953 Region 6 created a new lookout house designed specifically to save on costs. The introduction of the "R-6 flat top" was made possible by improved road (and helicopter) access; the lookout was built of large-sized materials that could not be packed in. The concept, originated by Region 6, was designed to alleviate the costs and hazards of re-shingling the hip roof of L-4s. The structures were 15' x 15' wood-frame with flat, tarred roofs. The flat roof extended beyond the cabin a few feet to provide shade. Single-light windows replaced multi-pane windows for better viewing. The extra foot in dimension made the living area more accommodating than the L-4. The R-6 typically had no shutters; window coverings and exterior walls were constructed of textured-1-11 siding. R-6 model lookouts were not placed in large numbers, and were eventually supplanted by aerial fire-detection and modern suppression methods.²³

Lookout Tower Types

The styles of towers holding up the lookouts were just as varied as the cabs. Early towers were built of wood and varied in size and design, depending on the size of lookout cab they would support and whether the supports were treated timber (e.g., TT-1), creosote-treated timber (CT-1 to CT-6), or untreated round poles (RT-1). An additional code designation for the TT and CT tower types indicated whether they would be hauled to the site by truck or horse. For instance, a TT-1 TH refers to a truck haul, and a CT-6 HP indicates a horse pack. The CT and RT tower types were standardized by 1937.²⁴

While wooden towers dominated the landscape in the 1910s and 1920s, designers also favored the use of steel towers. As early as 1914, Coert duBois endorsed the use of Aermotor steel towers in California forests. Since 1888, the Aermotor Company of Chicago, IL, manufactured steel towers for windmills, pumps, and tanks that dotted the Great Plains and other semi-arid regions. Acting on duBois' recommendation, foresters had the company begin producing observation towers for the Forest Service in 1926. Generally, the Aermotor steel towers came with a cab as a unit featuring various style types similar to the standardized plans of the L-6, depending on the tower size. For example, a common tower and cab unit included a tower with an interior diagonal staircase and 7' x 7' steel cab at the apex called a Model MC-39 or -40.²⁵

²¹ Ibid., 71.

²² Ibid.; Tomlinson, 19-21.

²³ Tomlinson, 23; Atwood et al., 73-74.

²⁴ Tomlinson, 23.

²⁵ Ibid., 22; Atwood et al., 68, 71.

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In Region 6, steel towers started to dot the landscape during the 1920s. By the 1930s, foresters built several more steel towers, mostly Aermotors, predominantly east of the Cascades. The year 1933 served as the banner year for construction of steel towers in the Pacific Northwest due to the available workforce from the CCC.

Living Quarters

As lookout stations and their uses evolved from high viewpoints visited by rangers on their rounds to permanent tower structures, living quarters evolved as well as the lookout-person required a comfortable place to stay during the whole of fire season. While lookouts initially used tents as housing beneath a crow's nest, their living quarters soon moved upwards into the larger L-4 design prominent during the 1920s and on, which adhered to duBois' principle of observation and living within the same space. The philosophy was that while working, dressing, cooking, or eating, the lookout-person was able to spot a smoke curl from anywhere in the lookout during any task. With a larger space in the L-4, lookout persons took cab interiors from simple observatories to comfortable accommodations.²⁶

Inside the cab, furniture generally consisted of a stove, a single bunk bed that folded up when not in use, a foldable table, two cooler cabinets, shelving, and a water stand. Observers neatly arranged their gear, cooking equipment, and reading material using the cabinets and shelving to keep the room tidy. All the furniture around the perimeter, except for the stove pipe, was no higher than 36" to avoid blocking the view. In the center of the room, the fire finder was typically placed on a more elaborate built-in stand, elevated above the other furnishings, with a telephone mounted on the side of the stand. The observer's stool had glass telephone insulators for feet, for protection against lightning strikes.²⁷

Locations that required a taller tower to see over the tree line, which only supported a small cab, continued to utilize ground housing as the cab only accommodated the fire finder and other observatory equipment. Housing and ancillary buildings at lookout stations followed the designs and principles of Forest Service administrative facilities, specifically those implemented during the Depression Era and built by the CCC.

Forest Service architects of the era designed administrative sites as an ensemble of standardized building designs (residences, garages, offices, toilets, bunkhouses, and warehouses) with the goal of promoting efficiency and blending the site with the surrounding natural environment. The predominate style of these buildings is described as rustic (sometimes referred to as 'Cascadian' in Region 6) like that of the earlier Arts and Crafts influence on the National Park Service and early Forest Service architecture. These structures generally featured wood-frame buildings with mid-to-high pitched gable roofs covered with cedar shingles or pine shakes, horizontal clapboard, drop "V" or wood shingle cladding, and multi-light windows. More elaborate rustic-style buildings with the distinct "cottage-look" included dormers, fieldstone or brick chimneys, vertical boards or shingles on the gable ends, and fieldstone or concrete foundations, entries, and patios. Simpler CCC buildings adhering to the basics of the design without any embellishments remained "utilitarian" in style. The houses, garages, and outhouses built at lookout stations generally followed the CCC utilitarian style of simple, rectangular, one or two-room, one-story, gabled roof buildings with "V" rustic or split-cedar siding and shake-covered roofs.²⁸

In total, the Pacific Northwest Region constructed 1,580 lookout stations: 902 in Oregon and 678 in Washington. An additional 1,723 lookout stations were constructed in Idaho and Montana, rounding out the larger northwest at 3,303 lookouts.²⁹ The abundance of multiple designs and types of lookout structures grew from the need to accommodate the diverse geography of high elevations and mountainous terrain found throughout the Pacific Northwest. Due to the size and weight of the large D-6 Cupola and the L-4, these cabs could only be supported by short towers if any. Thus, foresters placed these structures on summits with little

²⁶ Atwood et. al, 65-74; Tomlinson, 15-26.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Atwood et al., 45-57.

²⁹ Ray Kresek, *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*. 3rd ed. Revised. Fairfield, Washington: Ye Galleon Press, 2012.

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forest cover to provide the observer with the most expansive view. For densely forested, high elevation areas, foresters constructed tall lookout structures to afford a view over the trees, such as the Aermotor steel tower and smaller L-6 or Standard 7' x 7' cab. Constructing thousands of lookout stations using numerous designs across all types of rugged, isolated terrain of the northwest fulfilled the earlier goals of foresters to create a fixed-point fire-detection system and assure the protection of the nation's forests.

Post-War Decline of Lookout Stations

During World War II, the Forest Service's established lookout sites became an important part of the nation's defense strategy. Fear of enemy aircraft attack in the United States led to the establishment of the War Department's Aircraft Warning Service (AWS) in 1942, which utilized several Forest Service lookout stations to be on the lookout for enemy aircraft sightings.³⁰

In the post-war years, aircraft and technological advances dramatically changed the ways in which the Forest Service handled fire-suppression operations. Two-way radios replaced telephone lines for communication, while aerial patrols and smokejumpers made many fixed-point detection facilities increasingly obsolete. Region 6 took an active part in developing new facilities to support the use of aerial fire-fighting technologies. The Region 6 Air Center at Redmond, Oregon, incorporated facilities for training and supplying Forest Service smokejumpers as well as tankers and other fire-fighting aircraft. Additionally, improved access by roads brought in more recreationists to the forests who could report fires. Nationwide, the number of lookout towers peaked in 1953 to 5,060, after which a steady decline began.³¹

During the mid-century, the rate of new lookout construction continued to slow considerably and most new structures were simply replacements of older facilities. The destruction of lookout towers (as well as other surplus Forest Service buildings) increased dramatically in the mid-1960s. This was primarily the result of legislation passed by Congress in 1965 that allowed citizens to sue federal agencies for injuries they received while on government property. With all these "attractive nuisances" that recreationists loved to climb, the Forest Service reduced its liability by tearing down many abandoned lookout structures. The majority of lookout structures that remain were ones still used for fire-detection through the late twentieth century and fortunately those that no one got around to tearing down.³²

Lookout Stations on the Umatilla National Forest and the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout

Of the 1,580 lookout stations constructed in the Pacific Northwest Region, at least 53 were constructed on the Umatilla National Forest in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. The earliest reference to a lookout on the Umatilla dates to 1914, likely a crow's nest at Tower Mountain (then called Lookout Mountain):

In order to make the immediate detection of forest fires in the south end of the county more easy, Forest Rangers Walter Allison and Bun Moore are now constructing a tower on Lookout Mountain, the highest peak in the range, and from this they will scan the forests for many miles with a strong glass. The tower is almost complete and one man will be stationed there most of the time.³³

Between 1914 and the late 1920s, the Umatilla constructed at least 14 crow's nests ranging between 60' and 110' high at locations such as Pearson Ridge, Hoodoo Ridge, and Summit Ranger Station. Foresters also established several other "emergency lookout stations" that may have been crow's nests, simple vantage

³⁰ Atwood et al., 74-75.

³¹ Ibid.; Tomlinson, 13.

³² Tomlinson, 13-14.

³³ Ibid., 1, 9-10.

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points, or haphazard towers with platforms at places like Big Hole, Clearwater, Diamond Peak, Spout Springs, and Mt. Misery.³⁴

In 1925, foresters built a crow's nest at Hoodoo Ridge using a 110' ponderosa pine tree. The ladder circled up the tree trunk to the 6' wide platform accessed by a hole in the floor. The Hoodoo Ridge area had been a site of Forest management since 1907 when foresters established the nearby Long Meadows Guard Station with headquarters out of Troy, Oregon. Three miles north of Troy, foresters also constructed a log cabin at Dry Gulch and the Wenaha River that they connected to Long Meadows and Troy with telephone line. This telephone line then connected to the crow's nest. Local ranchers used part of the surrounding Hoodoo Ridge area as range land since the forest's inception, known as the Hoo Doo Sheep Allotment. North of the sheep allotment, cattle and horse livestock grazed the area. Knowing the area quite well, foresters identified the best vantage for detecting fires was at the highest point of the ridge, which became the site of the Hoodoo Ridge crow's nest. According to Forest records, the Hoodoo crow's nest is the only remaining lookout of its kind left on the Umatilla, as all other crow's nests have deteriorated or been removed.³⁵

With new lookout designs coming out of the Region during the 1920s and 1930s, the Umatilla initiated a steady pace of construction on its own of enclosed lookout stations and saw a substantial increase in construction in 1933 due to the CCC.

The Forest built at least four D-6 cupolas including those at Madison Butte (1923), Table Rock (1929), and possibly at two other locations. However, none of these stations remain.³⁶

The L-4 plan proved to be a more popular choice on the Umatilla; between 1932 and 1950 the Forest constructed at least 20 L-4 lookout stations. These included two gable-roofed L-4 lookouts at Diamond Peak and Oregon Butte in 1931, the only known gable L-4s built on the Umatilla. Diamond Peak was intentionally burned in 1953, leaving Oregon Butte as the only surviving and intact example of this type on the Umatilla, as well as east of the Cascades in either Washington or Oregon.³⁷

Umatilla foresters built five 1932 versions of the L-4 at Griffin Peak (1933), High Ridge (1932), McIntyre Point (1932), Saddle Butte (1932), and Ant Hill (1935). None of these lookouts remain on the Umatilla.³⁸

Following the trends of the Region, Umatilla foresters favored the 1936 version, constructing as many as thirteen Standard 1936 L-4s. Only three lookout cabs of this style survive – Lookout Mountain (1949), Table Rock (1949), and Big Butte (1950). Lookout Mountain and Big Butte were constructed on towers and maintain integrity while Table Rock, which has been heavily modified, sets on a one-story concrete foundation that serves as a storage room.³⁹

The Forest constructed two L-5 style cabs at Red Hill (1933) and Wheeler Point (1933), both of which have been removed, while records indicate that the only L-6 on the Umatilla was one without a catwalk at Big Butte, built in 1938. This lookout tower with a ground house and garage was replaced with an L-4 in 1950, which still remains.

The Umatilla constructed at least three of the 7' x 7' type at Pearson Ridge (1935), Ukiah Ranger Station (1939), and Goodman Ridge (1936). None of these lookouts are extant.⁴⁰

³⁴ Ibid., 15.

³⁵ Jill Bassett, "Long Meadows Guard Station Building #1044 Evaluation Report," (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Umatilla National Forest, Walla Walla Ranger District, 2003), 5; Gerald J. Tucker, *History of the Northern Blue Mountains*. (Manuscript on file, USDA Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Pendleton, Oregon, 1940), 146-147.

³⁶ Tomlinson, 16.

³⁷ Ibid., 17-19.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 19-21.

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Between 1933 and 1934, with the help of the CCC, the Umatilla constructed four Aermotor towers with 7' x 7' steel cabs. The CCC constructed the Hoodoo Ridge and Clearwater Aermotor lookouts in 1933 and possibly the towers at Tamarack Mountain (ca. 1934) and Tower Mountain (ca. 1934). Each lookout featured a different Aermotor type or size: the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout had a MC-39 -40 101' steel tower; the Clearwater Lookout had a MC-39 -40 87' steel tower; the Tamarack Mountain Lookout had a LX24 100' steel tower; and the Tower Mountain Lookout had a MC-39 -40 88' steel tower. It is possible that all four Umatilla Aermotor towers may have been ordered at the same time from the manufacturer. The three MC-39 -40 towers maintain excellent integrity. The Tamarack Mountain Lookout has been modified with an interior wooden stairway opposed to the original exterior steel stairway of the LX24 model. Due to the small size of the cabs, crews constructed cabins and ancillary buildings on the ground around the towers to provide lookout crews with living quarters and storage space.⁴¹

Based out of the Asotin Ranger District (now Pomeroy and Walla Walla Ranger Districts), CCC enrollees accomplished a great deal of building projects on the Umatilla between 1933 and 1942. CCC crews constructed at least 17 to 21 lookout towers and ground cabs, numerous lookout station buildings (houses, garages, and outhouses), and ran hundreds of miles of telephone lines from station to station. In addition to fire prevention infrastructure, the CCC on the Umatilla expanded guard stations and constructed recreation areas.⁴²

In 1933, a small contingency of CCC enrollees from the Tollgate camp were temporarily stationed at the Long Meadows Guard Station, where they added onto the station and renovated extant structures. While the CCC was stationed at Long Meadows, the Forest took the opportunity to use the labor to update the nearby Hoodoo Ridge Lookout from the 1925 crow's nest to a new, modern lookout plan for an enclosed cab. Foresters and the CCC choose a site slightly uphill from the crow's nest to construct the Aermotor MC-39 or -40 steel tower with an interior diagonal staircase and 7' x 7' cab. Because of the dense forest found on Hoodoo Ridge, the Forest selected the Aermotor design to peer over the forest cover and possibly purchased the tower with three others for the Forest with similar cover.⁴³

With no room in the cab for anything but the fire finder, the CCC constructed living quarters on the ground, like many other Umatilla lookout stations. The building group included a cabin, garage, and (possible) outhouse roughly based on Forest Service standardized administrative building plans. The buildings exhibited the CCC utilitarian style with "V" rustic and cedar shake siding, steeply-pitched gable roofs, and close spatial relationships to promote efficiency and compatibility with the surrounding environment. The CCC installed a new telephone system at the Lookout, leading from the new construction to Forest improvements along the Wenaha River.⁴⁴

Only four houses remain on the Umatilla, those that accompanied lookouts with small cabs. These are located at Clearwater, Hoodoo Ridge, Tamarack Mountain (the former garage was converted to a house), and Tower Mountain. The only remaining garages include those at Big Butte, Hoodoo Ridge, and Desolation Butte, built for a single-car with additional space on one side for storage. Outhouses have outlasted most lookout infrastructure, with 13 remaining throughout the Forest.⁴⁵

The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is the only remaining lookout station featuring a steel Aermotor tower to have all ground components still in place. The Clearwater Lookout retains only a cabin, presumed to have been built during the 1940s, and modern ancillary buildings. The Tamarack Mountain Lookout retains a heavily modified garage converted to a cabin after the original cabin burned in 1966, as well as a modern outhouse. The Tower Mountain Lookout presently includes a cabin moved to the site in 1949, while the original garage and outhouse have been sold and burned down respectively. All four Aermotor sites initially included a crow's nest or

⁴¹ Ibid., 22.

⁴² Ibid., 12-13; Tucker.

⁴³ Bassett, 5; Tucker, 148-149.

⁴⁴ Tucker, 150.

⁴⁵ Tomlinson, 25-26.

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primitive lookout station before construction of the steel towers; only the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout retains a crow's nest (throughout the entire Forest). Thus, the extant 1925 crow's nest and 1933 Aermotor tower and ground buildings render the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout one of the few intact and integrity-filled lookout stations within the Umatilla National Forest, state of Oregon, and larger Region 6.⁴⁶

Over the years at the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout, observers identified one human-caused fire in 1934, one human- and one lightning-caused fire in 1935, and two human- and two lightning-caused fires in 1937. In 1946, C. Glen Jorgenson, Umatilla Timber Staff, and Willis Ward, Walla Walla District Ranger, visited the lookout in April to view the tussock moth damage in the area. The tussock moth causes defoliation to Douglas-firs, true firs, and spruce trees. During the 1946 outbreak, 10,000 to 12,000 acres of mixed-conifer forest in the Troy vicinity had been defoliated by the tussock moth. Outbreaks of the moth damage were reported throughout the Blue Mountains in 1928-1929, 1937-1939, 1946-1948, 1963-1965, 1972-1974, 1992-1993, and 2000-2001.⁴⁷ Records for the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout cease after 1946.⁴⁸

During World War II, no lookout construction projects were recorded on the Forest. However, with the male labor force dramatically cut, the Forest Service increased the number of women lookouts, one of the few positions available to women at the time. The Umatilla staffed a few lookout stations with women, including Elsie Ralph of Walla Walla, who worked at the Lookout Mountain Station, and Darlene Wilson of Wallowa County, who worked in smoke-chasing and fire spotting at the Dorrance cow camp. It is unknown if any women were employed at the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout.⁴⁹

After the heyday of lookout construction on the Forest during the 1930s and end of the CCC program in 1942, lookout construction on the Umatilla steadily declined. From 1946 to 1950, six lookout structures were built on the Forest, all replacements of earlier structures. Only four more lookouts were built on the Umatilla between 1957 and 1961 including three of the newly designed 1953 R-6 Flat. These included Wheeler Point (1959), High Ridge (1959), and Desolation Butte (1961). The two latter are still in use.⁵⁰

Throughout the early to mid-twentieth century, the Umatilla National Forest witnessed dramatic changes in fire-detection practices from crow's nests to large live-in cabs. The varying terrain of the Forest required a number of different lookout types, including large cabs on short towers and small observatory cabs atop 100' towers with buildings below. While the highest number of stations in existence at one time is not known, the Forest had at least 53 different lookout locations over the years, out of 1,580 Region 6 lookouts and 5,060 lookouts nationwide. Today, only 14 stations with structures within the Umatilla remain, and of these only a few are in use.⁵¹

⁴⁶ Tomlinson, Appendix C.

⁴⁷ USDA Forest Service. Records of the Umatilla National Forest. Pendleton, Oregon.

⁴⁸ This is the only information available within Forest Service and outside records regarding use of the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout between 1925 and the 1970s when use of the lookout ceased.

⁴⁹ Tomlinson, 13.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>45.95277</u> Latitude	<u>-117.612860</u> Longitude	3	<u>45.947438</u> Latitude	<u>-117.610712</u> Longitude
2	<u>45.947886</u> Latitude	<u>-117.610690</u> Longitude	4	<u>45.947463</u> Latitude	<u>-177.611299</u> Longitude
5	<u>45.953009</u> Latitude	<u>-117.612821</u> Longitude	6	<u>45.952876</u> Latitude	<u>-117.6126703</u> Longitude
7	<u>45.952706</u> Latitude	<u>-117.612860</u> Longitude	8	<u>45.952948</u> Latitude	<u>-117.613066</u> Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout is divided into two discontiguous areas. Boundaries for the 1933 CCC building group include within it the tower, cabin, garage, outhouse, and portion of Forest Road 620091. The boundaries are delineated by arbitrary lines 50 feet north of the outside legs of the tower, 60 feet west of the outhouse, 40 feet south of the outhouse, and 50 feet east of the tower. Boundaries for the northern crow's nest include the single structure and are delineated by arbitrary lines 40 feet in each direction from the center of the structure.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The two discontiguous boundaries of the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout delineate definable geographic areas in which are concentrated the buildings and structures that describe the construction and use of the site as a fire-detection post. The boundaries drawn encompass context for the resources and historically used areas within and around the two areas.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel D. Kline/ Architectural Historian date June 27, 2014
organization USDA Forest Service Heritage Stewardship Group telephone (970) 218-8162
street & number 63095 Deschutes Market Road email rdkline@fs.fed.us
city or town Bend state OR zip code 97701

Hoodoo Ridge Lookout
Name of Property

Wallowa Co., OR
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Regional Location Map**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Tax Lot Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Hoodoo Ridge Lookout
Name of Property

Wallowa Co., OR
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Hoodoo Ridge Lookout
City or Vicinity: Troy Vicinity
County: Wallowa **State:** Oregon
Photographer: Jan M. Tomlinson; Jane Stuessy
Date Photographed: October 8, 2000; September, 2001; 2002

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0001
Looking upwards at the eastern/southeastern side of the crow's nest.
- Photo 2 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0002
Looking north at the Hoodoo Ridge tower.
- Photo 3 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0003
Looking at the Hoodoo Ridge tower cab ceiling.
- Photo 4 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0004
Looking at the hinged window on the north side of the Hoodoo Ridge tower cab.
- Photo 5 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0005
Looking at the floor of the Hoodoo Ridge tower cab.
- Photo 6 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0006
Eastern and northern elevations of the Hoodoo Ridge cabin with garage in the background.
- Photo 7 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0007
Eastern and northern elevations of the Hoodoo Ridge cabin after the Passport in Time restoration project with garage in the background. (Jane Stuessy: September 2001)
- Photo 8 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0008
Northern and western elevations of the Hoodoo Ridge cabin. (Jane Stuessy: September 2001)
- Photo 9 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0009
Southern and eastern elevations of the Hoodoo Ridge garage with the cabin in the background.

Hoodoo Ridge Lookout
Name of Property

Wallowa Co., OR
County and State

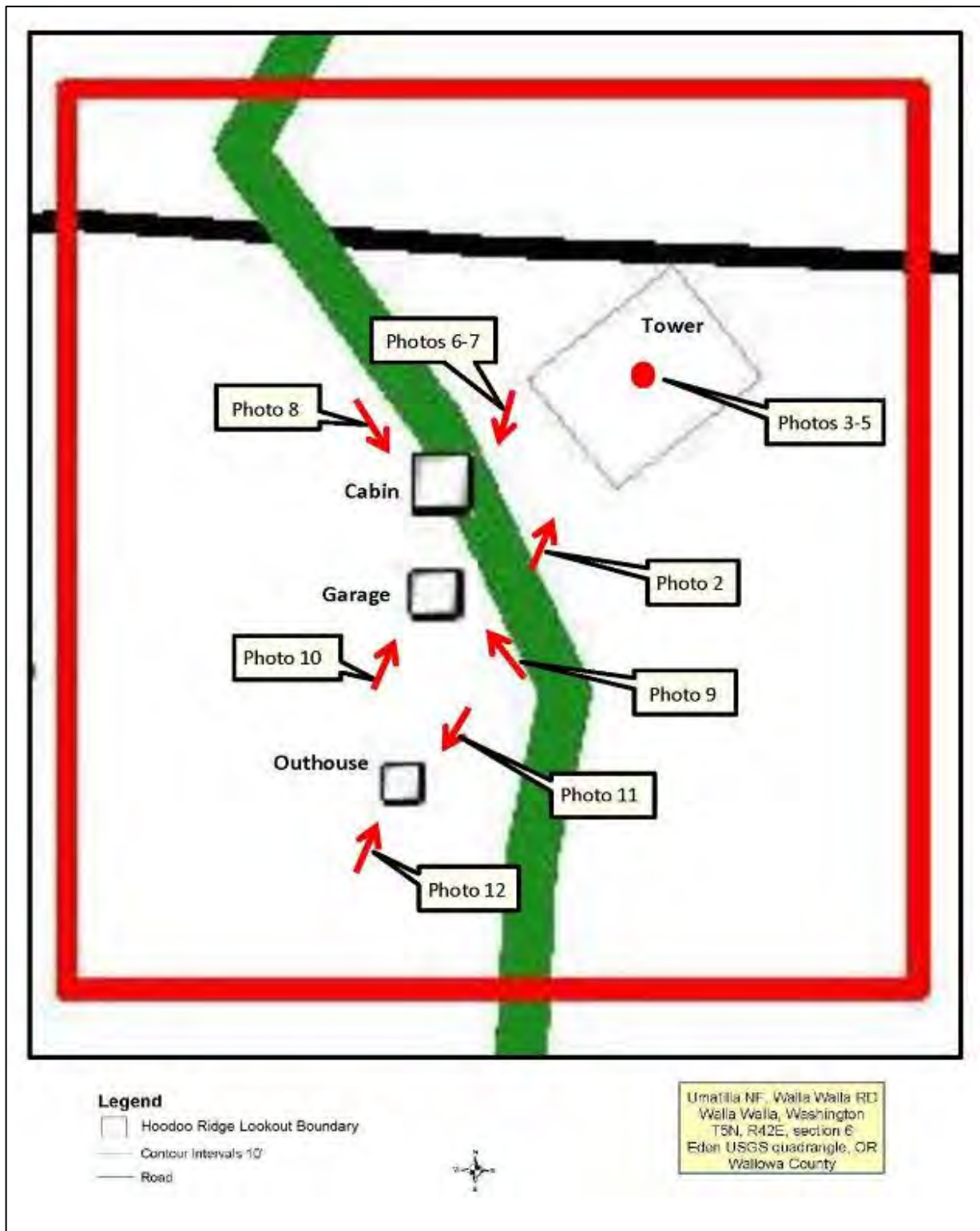
Photographs Continued

- Photo 10 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0010
Western and southern elevations of the Hoodoo Ridge garage after the Passport In Time restoration project. (2002)
- Photo 11 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0011
Eastern and northern elevations of the Hoodoo Ridge outhouse.
- Photo 12 of 12:** OR_WallowaCounty_HoodooRidgeLookout_0012
Western and southern elevations of the Hoodoo Ridge outhouse.

Hoodoo Ridge Lookout
Name of Property

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County and State

Photo Location Map – 1933 Group



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hoodoo Ridge Lookout
Name of Property
Wallowa Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)

Figure 1: 7.5 Minute USGS Location Map

Figure 2: 7.5 Minute USGS Relationship Map

Figure 3: Boundary Map

Figure 4: Site Sketch Plan, 1933 Group

Figure 5: Site Sketch Plan, 1925 Crow's Nest

Figure 6: Hoodoo Ridge crow's nest lookout, photograph

Figure 7: Hoodoo Ridge MC-39 -40 Aermotor Lookout Tower, photograph

Figure 8: Hoodoo Ridge garage and cabin, 1938, photograph

Figure 9: Aermotor 7' x 7' Tower Plan, 1935

Figure 10: Panoramic view from the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout Site, 1935, photograph

Figure 11: Osborne Fire Finder, photograph

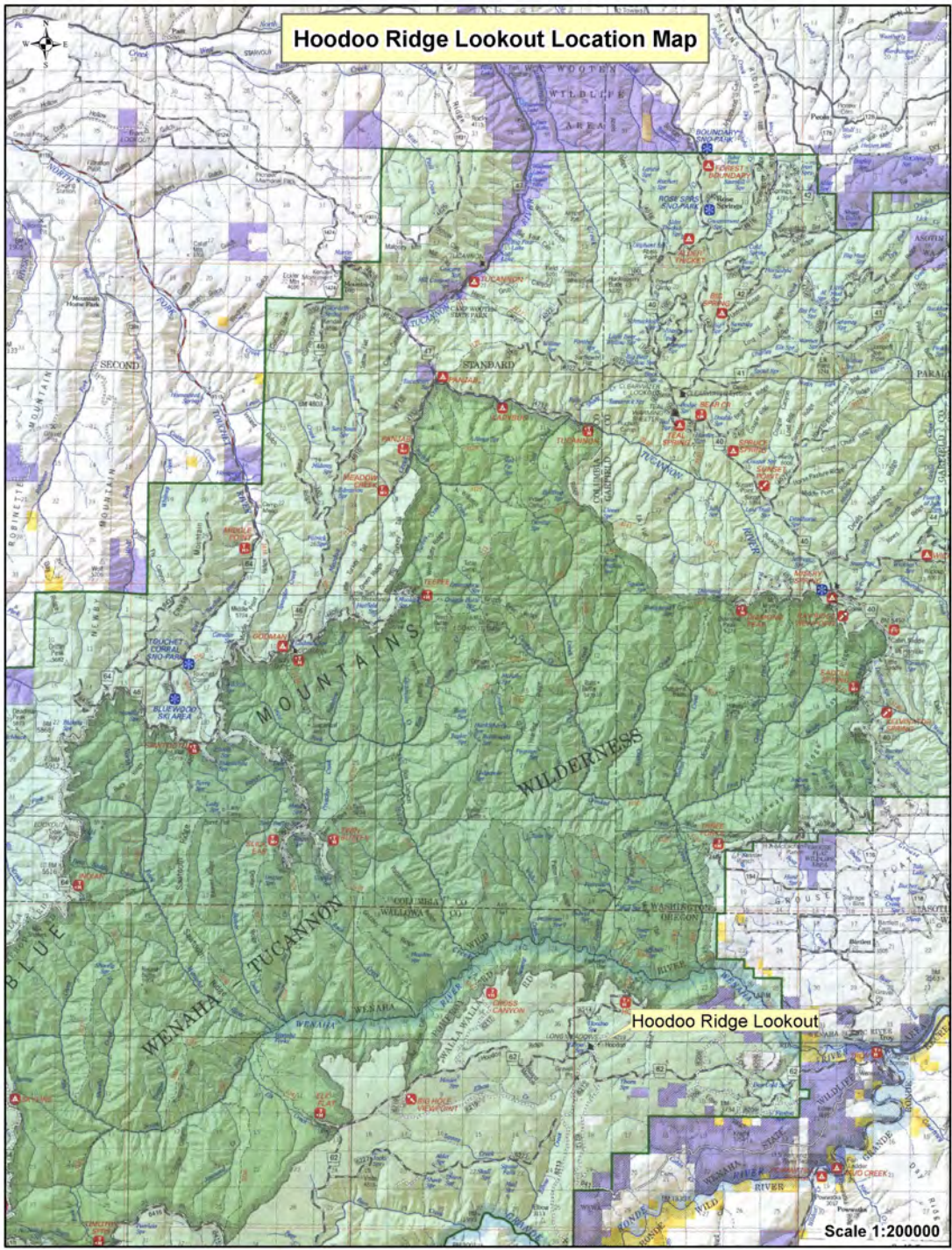
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 1: 7.5 Minute USGS Location Map, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 45.95277 / 117.612860



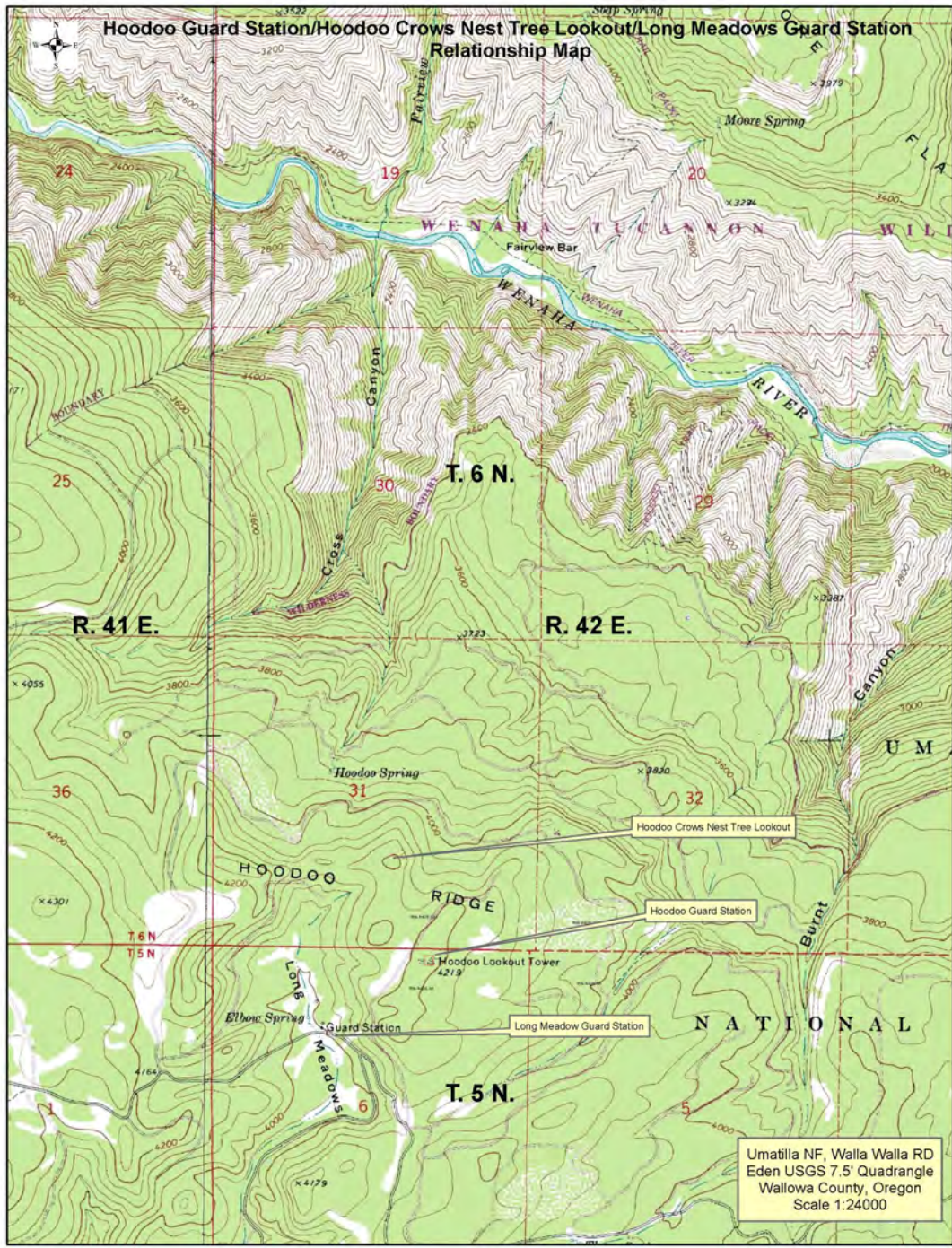
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National Park Service

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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 2: 7.5 Minute USGS Relationship Map, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 45.95277 / 117.612860



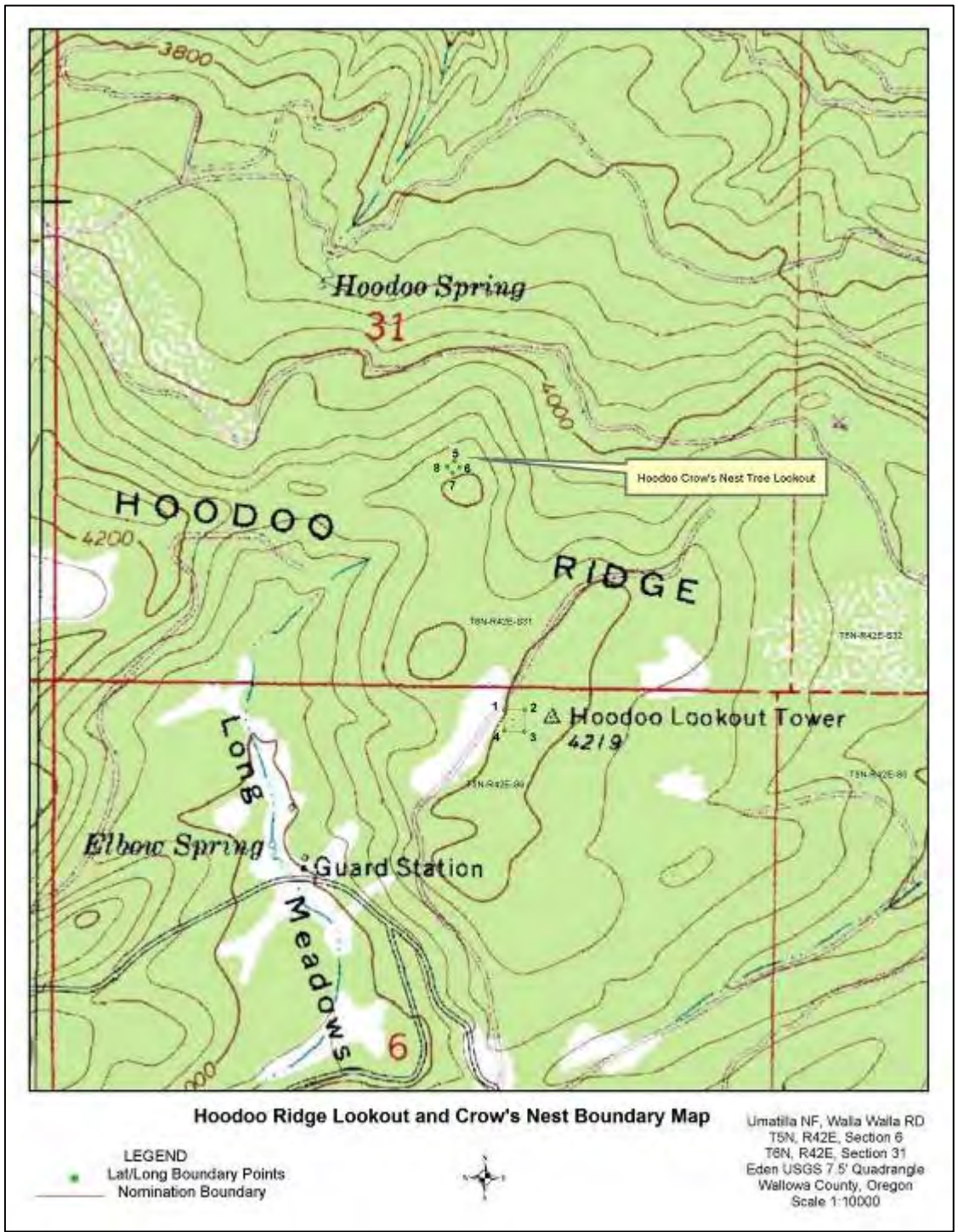
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 3: Boundary Map, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 45.95277 / 117.612860



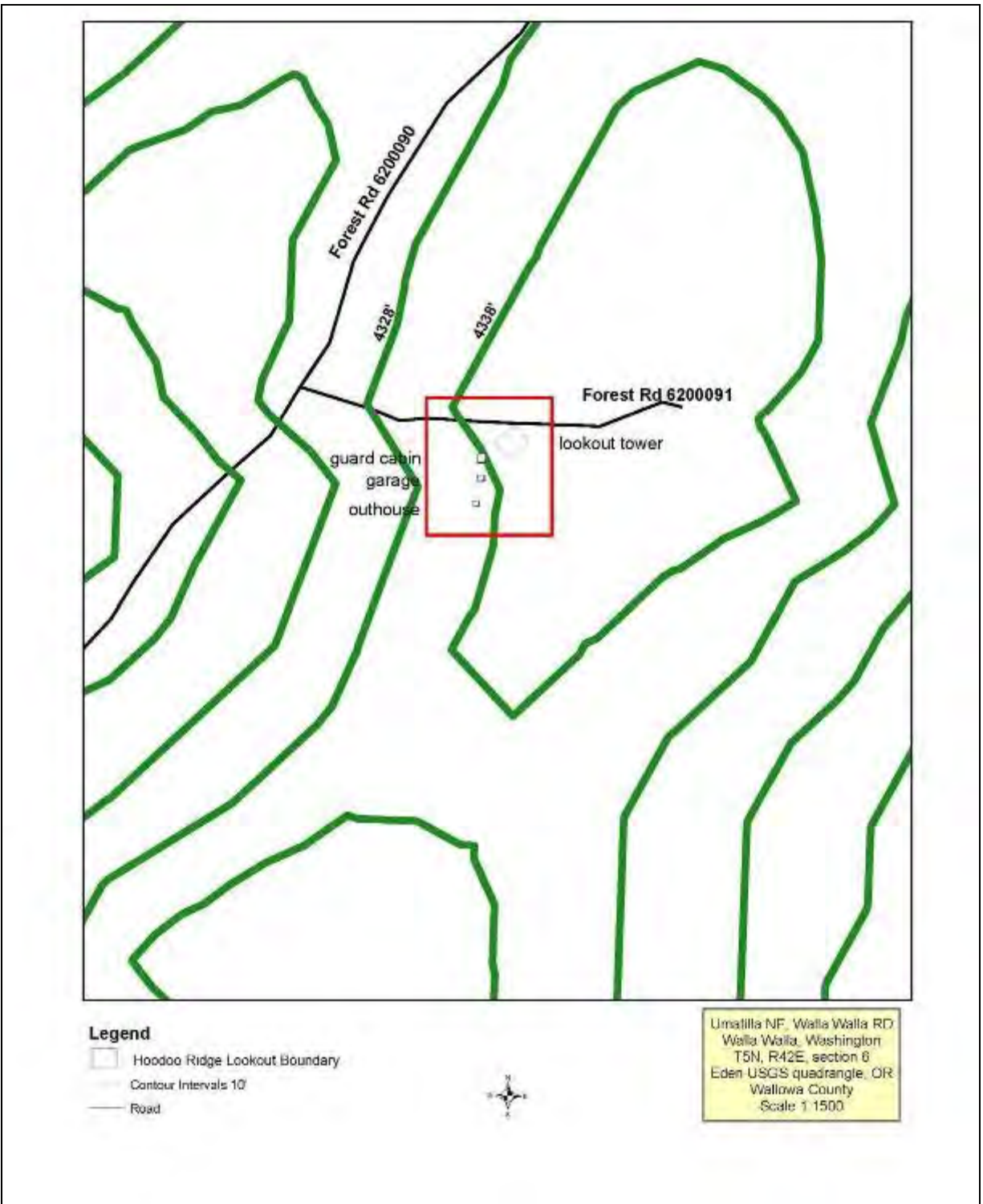
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Figure 4: Site Sketch Plan, 1933 Group.



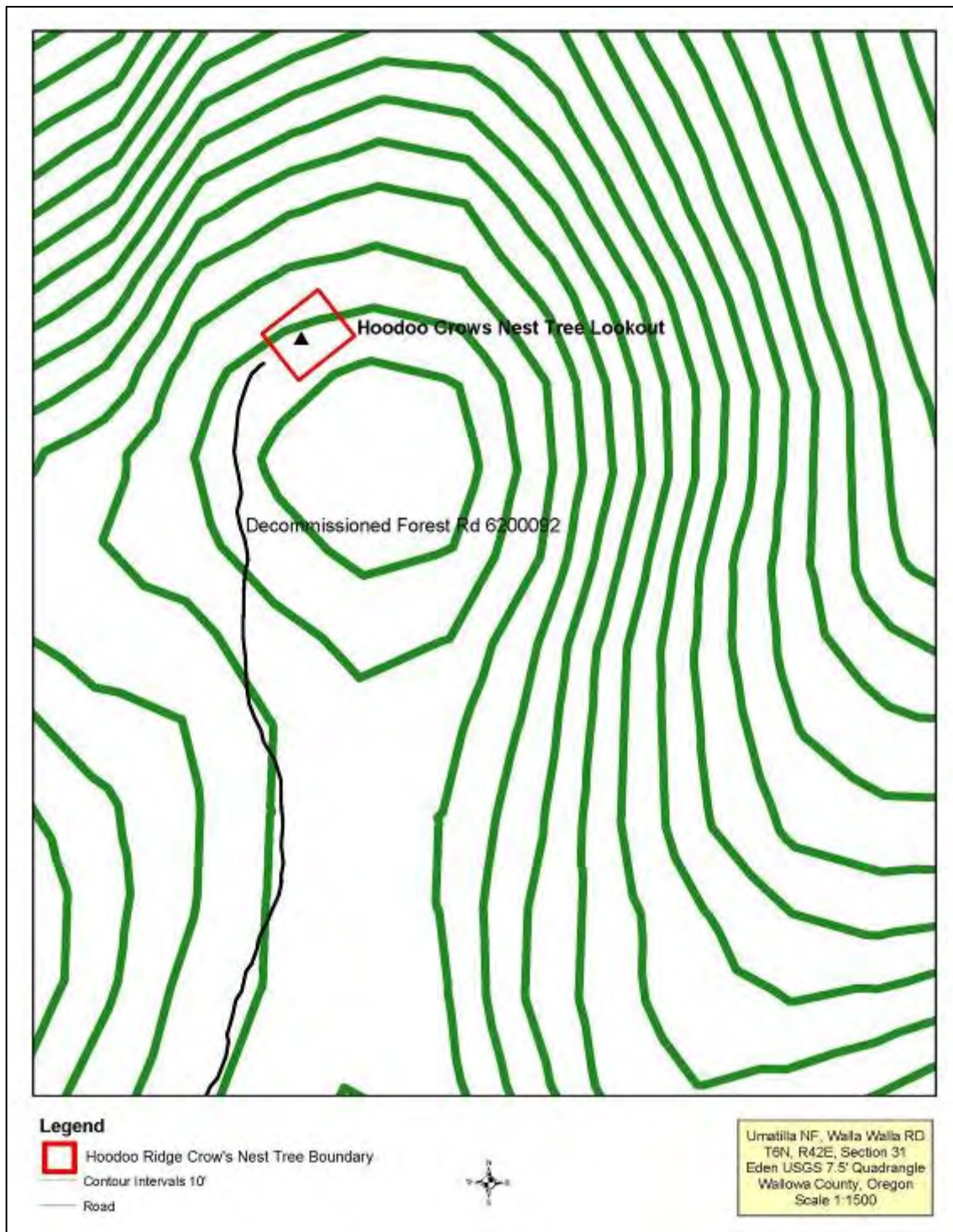
United States Department of the Interior
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Figure 5: Site Sketch Plan, 1925 Crow's Nest.



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Figure 6: Hoodoo Ridge crow's nest lookout, date unknown. USFS Umatilla National Forest archives.



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Figure 7: Hoodoo Ridge MC-39 -40 Aermotor Lookout Tower, date unknown. USFS, Umatilla National Forest archives.



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National Park Service

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Figure 8: Hoodoo Ridge garage and cabin, 1938. USFS, Umatilla National Forest archives.



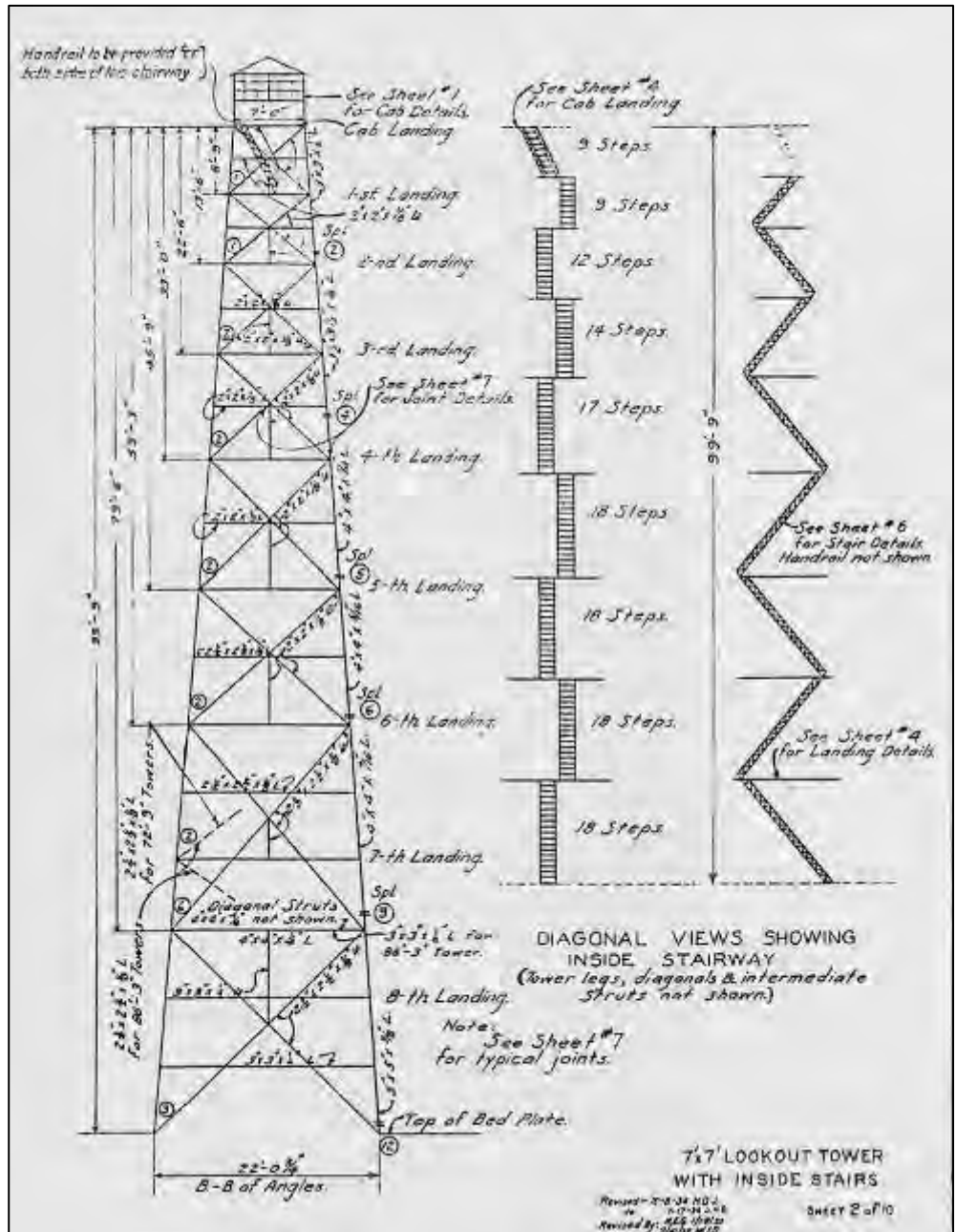
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 9: Aermotor 7' x 7' Tower Plan, 1935. USFS Region 1 Handbook.



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Figure 10: Panoramic view from the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout, 1935. USFS, Umatilla National Forest archives.



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Figure 11: Osborne Fire Finder, date unknown. USFS, San Dimas Technology and Development Center.



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hoodoo Ridge Lookout

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Wallowa

DATE RECEIVED: 4/10/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/06/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/21/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/26/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000273

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5.26.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region

1220 Southwest 3rd Avenue
P.O. Box 3623 (97208)
Portland, OR 97204

File Code: 2360
Date:

APR 7 2015



Ms. Carol D. Shull
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
USDOI National Park Service - Cultural Resources
1201 I Street NW, Eighth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurs that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Settlement and Abandonment of the Crooked River National Grassland in Jefferson County, OR, 1868-1937

Jefferson County
Multiple Property Document

Cyrus, Enoch and March, Homestead and Orchard Site (35-JE-881)
Culver Vicinity, Jefferson County

McCain, Julius and Sarah, Homestead and Orchard Site (35-JE-882)
Culver Vicinity, Jefferson County

US Army Fort Umpqua (35-DO-990)
Reedsport, Douglas County

Ollalie Meadows Guard Station
Estacada Vicinity, Marion County

Hoodoo Ridge Lookout
Troy Vicinity, Wallowa County

Enclosed please find the National Register of Historic Places nomination in digital form for these properties. Included in this mailing, for each nomination are an original signature page and two compact discs with the nomination and digital photographs. The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the above nominations listed to the National Register of Historic Places.



The USDA's Forest Service Federal Preservation Officer has delegated the signing authority on National Register of Historic Places nominations for properties on National Forests in Region 6 to Regional Archaeologist Jeff Walker.

We appreciate your consideration of this nomination. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Walker at 503-808-2126 or jwalker02@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



GORDON BLUM
Director, Recreation, Lands, and Minerals

Enclosures: Electronic copy (2 CD each of the 6 nomination; 1 for MPD – totaling 13)
Signature pages for each

