

**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: 00000511

Date Listed: 12/29/2000

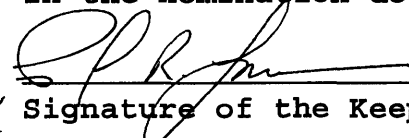
Mt. Stella Lookout  
Property Name

Jackson  
County

OR  
State

U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures  
on the Rogue River National Forest, MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
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.

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/29/00  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Resource Category:**  
The appropriate resource category is: *Building*

**Significance:**  
*Architecture* is added as an area of significance under Criterion C.

These revisions were confirmed with the U.S. Forest Service.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

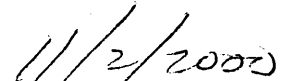
Section 3 Page 1

U. S. Forest Service  
Historic Structures on the  
Rogue River National Forest  
MPS

SECTION 3: FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that the nominations listed below meet the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meet the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the properties meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that these properties be considered significant locally.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/FPO

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Federal Agency and bureau: *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region*  
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**Administrative**

Star Ranger Station Building/"Tack Room" (1911)  
Willow Prairie Cabin (1924)  
Big Elk Guard Station (1929)

**Fire Lookouts**

Hershberger Mountain Lookout (1924)  
Dutchman Peak Lookout (1927)  
Mt. Stella Lookout (1933)  
Squaw Peak Lookout (1943)

**Snow Survey Cabins**

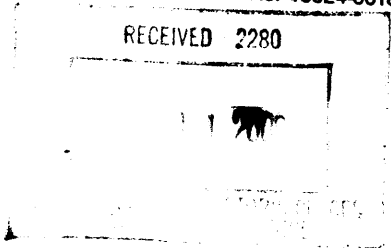
Whaleback Snow-Survey Cabin (1937)  
Honeymoon Creek Snow Cabin (1943)

**CCC/FERA Recreation Facilities**

McKee Bridge Campground (1935-1936)  
Wrangle Shelter (1935-36)  
Dead Indian Soda Springs Shelter (1936)  
Fish Lake Shelter (1936)  
Parker Meadows Shelter (1936)

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



511

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mt. Stella Lookout  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Approximately 2.5 miles north of Union Creek  not for publication  
city or town Prospect Rogue River National Forest  vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Jackson code 029 zip code 97536

### 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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonas Hamrick March 10, 2000  
Signature of certifying official/Title /Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Cal R. Fry 12/29/00

Mt. Stella Lookout

Jackson OREGON

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 5 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing

U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures on the Rogue River National Forest

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

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: fire lookout

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: "L-4" lookout

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

WOOD: (tower) foundation, WOOD: Weatherboard walls, WOOD: shingle roof

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please See Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1933-1943

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Rogue River National Forest

Mt. Stella Lookout

Jackson Oregon

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid for Zone 11, Easting 546200, Northing 4753800

UTM grid for Zone, Easting, Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name: Katherine C. Atwood, Organization: (for) USDA Forest Service, Date: November 10, 1999, Address: 365 Holly Street, Ashland, Oregon, Telephone: 541-482-8714, Zip: 97520

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: USDA Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, Address: P.O. Box 520, Medford, Oregon, Telephone: 541-858-2200, Zip: 97501

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.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.

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Mt. Stella Lookout

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**Description**

Setting

Mt. Stella Lookout is situated on Mt. Stella in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 26, Township 30 South, Range 3 East, W.M., in northeastern Jackson County, Oregon on the Prospect Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest. Mt. Stella's summit is 4,715 feet above sea level.

Mt. Stella is an eroded andesitic remnant in the Cascade Range, probably dating to the early-to-mid Pleistocene Epoch volcanism. The summit provides a panoramic view of the upper Rogue River country, including the rim of Crater Lake and California's Mt. Shasta to the south. To the north about six miles, the ridge system of which Mt. Stella is a part connects to the Rogue-Umpqua Divide. The west slope of the mountain drains into Flat Creek, the south, east, and northeast slopes drain directly into the Rogue River. By May of most years, the summit is largely free of snow.

Vegetation of the summit includes forest cover of white fir and noble/Shasta red fir, golden chinquapin, and of Douglas-fir at lower elevations. Dwarf chinquapin, manzanita, oceanspray, serviceberry, and other shrubs/small tree species dominate the understory and open areas. Forest Service Road 6510-200, the Mt. Stella access road, gains the summit from a ridge-crest saddle located over a mile to the northwest. The road ascends southeasterly to near the summit, where it switchbacks to the north and ends about 300 feet beyond the switchback, at the lookout site.

Structural Description

Oriented with its entrance to the south, Mt. Stella Lookout is a standard wood-frame, hipped-roof "L-4" style lookout cabin. It is approximately 14' x 14' in plan, and is mounted on a 30' high, 8' x 8' timber tower. The lookout is a balloon-frame structure with a wood-shingled hipped roof with an 8:12 pitch. Below the "wrap-around" bank of windows, the walls are sheathed in what appears to be the original 1" x 6" single-V rustic siding. Banks of two-over-two light fixed-sash windows encase most of the structure. A single wood-panel door is situated in the south elevation next to the southeast corner. Fixed shutters currently conceal the windows. Mt. Stella Lookout is a variant of the L-4 lookout style that has extended ceiling joists forming external attachments for the "awning" type window shutters when the structure is in use. Once gray in color, the structure has remained unpainted for at least twenty years. Weathered wood is exposed in a number of places where peeling paint is absent. A three-foot wide catwalk of 2" x 4"

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Mt. Stella Lookout

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planks surrounds the entire cabin, extending beyond the support posts of the cross-braced, unpainted, creosote-treated tower. A four-foot high guardrail encloses a catwalk, with an intermediate rail situated two feet above the catwalk floor.

The cabin is reached by two flights of stairs that rise from a landing at the east base of the tower. The highest portion of the stairway forms an extended area of the catwalk at the southeast corner. At the southwest base of the tower, directly below the intermediate stairway landing that spans much of the west-side width of the tower, stands an open-sided shower stall structure. Evidently a small water tank (no longer present), located somewhat higher on the tower, supplied solar-heated water for personnel use.

The cabin interior is arranged according to the standard L-4 plan, with cabinets, spaces for cot/stove/table, and a firefinder. The tower stairs have been removed to discourage visitors from climbing the tower. Mt. Stella Lookout has lost some physical integrity due to deteriorated condition. The roof is dilapidated and needs major refurbishing.

In addition to the lookout tower, the Mt. Stella site includes two other structures. A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) "garage/shed" constructed about 1937 is situated approximately 150 feet southwest of the lookout. A privy (ca. 1960) is located on the southeast slope of the summit, and probably replaced an earlier structure.

The garage/shed is a gable-roofed (12:12 pitch), balloon-frame structure measuring 16' 5" by 18' 3", with wood-shingle roofing and double-run shiplap siding painted gray. The front of the building is oriented to the south, with double, side-hinged swinging doors for the garage. The structure has two bays; a 10'-wide dirt floor garage to the west and a 6' 5"-wide enclosed storage shed on the east (reached by an interior door from the garage and an exterior door on the north). Like the lookout, the garage/storage structure has not been painted in many years. Like other standard Forest Service facilities of its kind, the privy is constructed of 4" x 4" and 2" x 4" frames, sheathed in 1" x 10" planks (board-and-batten style) and measures approximately 4' x 4' in plan.

A U.S. Cellular communications tower is proposed at the Mt. Stella site, to be located over 400 feet from the lookout tower and over 200 feet outside of the National Register of Historic Places-eligible property boundary. Several measures, including construction of the tower to resemble a timber "snag," will be implemented to substantially reduce the structure's visual impacts on the historic lookout; this project has been reviewed and approved by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.



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### Significance

Mt. Stella Lookout, an "L-4" hipped-roof style lookout built in 1933, is locally significant for its association with the development of fire detection on the Rogue River National Forest. Submitted as part of a multiple property submission, "U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures on the Rogue River National Forest, Oregon," Mt. Stella Lookout represents the associated historic context, "Fire Suppression on the Rogue River National Forest 1918-1943." The resource meets the registration requirements set forth in the registration document. It was established during the historic period, has retained its integrity of setting, location, design, and materials, and it evokes its historic associations with early fire suppression on the Forest. Previously declared eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an important component of early fire protection practices on the Rogue River National Forest, Mt. Stella Lookout exemplifies the hipped-roof style L-4 lookout developed in 1932. Structurally strong under heavy snow-loads, the type remained the Forest Service's primary national standard lookout (whether as a ground cabin or on a tower) through the 1930s to 1950s. During this period, the agency established its goal of providing "double coverage," (i.e. all seen-areas visible from at least two different observation points), on the National Forests. Mt. Stella retains its physical integrity; modifications are minor and few. Out of well over two hundred L-4 style lookouts built in Oregon, Mt. Stella Lookout is one of the last forty structures remaining of its type in Oregon.

Additionally, Mt. Stella Lookout has been declared eligible under Criterion C as an excellent representative of the L-4 fire lookout. Like other lookouts of its type Mt. Stella Lookout was built according to standardized plans and from pre-cut kits. This particular type of lookout embodies the distinctive style, location, appearance, and construction methods/materials of fire lookouts build during the historic period.

### History

Forest records indicate that construction of the Mt. Stella Lookout was definitely begun in 1932 and finished in 1933, making it one of the first hipped-roof L-4 lookouts to be built in the nation. It was probably purchased as a ready-to-build "kit" from Aladdin Manufacturing Company in Portland, Oregon, and then erected on the peak by a Forest Service crew that probably included Ray Schemerhorn, the first lookout of record at Mt.

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Stella in 1933. The access road probably was not in place at this time, and pack-mules would have transported the components to the summit. It is unlikely that the Civilian Conservation Corps was involved in construction of the lookout. The Corps was established by President Roosevelt in the spring of 1933 but did not become operative in southwestern Oregon until later that summer. The lookout cabin served as residence and workspace.

The Civilian Conservation Corps probably built the garage/shed between 1936 and 1938, when C.C.C crews erected similar structures at a number of lookout sites on the Forest, including Hershberger, Blue Rock, Dutchman, and Cinnabar, after the crews had built roads to their summits (Brown, 1972). The structure housed the vehicle of the lookoutman, served as a woodshed, and stored other supplies.

During World War II, Mt. Stella, like a few other lookouts on the Rogue River National Forest, served as an Aircraft Warning Service (AWS) observation post. From mid-1942 through the winter of 1942-1943 and into late 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Ash lived at Mt. Stella as AWS observers. No enemy aircraft were observed but radio checks and daily reporting kept the couple busy. During the winter, over nine feet of snow accumulated on the summit, requiring strenuous effort to keep the stairs and catwalk useable and the telephone line operative. Unlike similar garages at other lookout sites, the CCC-built structure at Mt. Stella was not converted into living quarters for the AWS observers, who instead lived in the lookout atop an ice-coated tower.

About 1946, the original tower, built of four 10" x 12" inch peeled poles in slanted upright positions, was replaced with the current tower of milled timbers and lumber. The newer tower proved more resistant to decay than the original untreated posts peeled from native firs. The lookout cabin remained in place as the new tower was built up to its floor and then the old tower was dismantled. About this time a standard Forest Service privy was probably placed on the property. (The current privy probably dates to the early 1970s.).

Mt. Stella continued in use as an active fire detection facility through the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. In the mid-1980s Mt. Stella acquired an "inactive/emergency use" status, with occasional fire-detection use into the early 1990s. Installation of a Remote Automated Weather System (RAWS) station (a Forest-Service fire-management-associated facility that includes a short radio tower and transmitter box) about 1983 just north of the tower,

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and removal of the lookout tower's stairs are the only recent changes to the site. Because of its small size and unobtrusive siting, the addition of the RAWS station had a comparatively minor impact to the site. It is virtually invisible from the main elevation/approach to the site (i.e. the parking area at the end of the access road.)

Although unpainted for many years and in only fair condition in some of their exposed wooden components, both the lookout and the garage/shed retain sufficient physical integrity, and modifications, other than the 1946 tower replacement, are few. The site also retains its integrity of association, appearance, location, and feeling. It has been used as a lookout site throughout its active service period, and it remains readily identifiable as a historic fire lookout.

Mt. Stella Lookout is significant for its associations with the development of the Rogue River National Forest, and specifically with fire detection on the Forest between 1927 and 1943. It is additionally significant for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of its type as an L-4 style lookout once widely in use throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

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Mt. Stella Lookout

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## **Bibliography**

LaLande, Jeff

1998 Proposed U.S. Cellular Communications Tower at Mt. Stella, near Mt. Stella  
Lookout: A Heritage Resource Evaluation and Project Assessment Report, (C.R.  
Job RR-1139) Rogue River National Forest.

LaLande, Jeff

1999 Field Visit to Mt. Stella Lookout, August 4, 1999.

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A USGS map of the Union Creek Quadrangle is included with this nomination. A photocopied section of this map with the site location indicated by an arrow, is also contained in the nomination document.

**Boundary Description:**

Mt. Stella Lookout is situated on National Forest land in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26, Township 30 South, Range 3 East, W.M., in northeastern Jackson County, Oregon. The property is further identified on USGS Map Union Creek Quadrangle, 7.5 minutes series, included with this nomination.

For purposes of this nomination, the property may be further described as an circular parcel, whose outer boundary is determined by measuring approximately feet 250 feet south from the southwest corner of the lookout to form the outer boundary of a circle, and scribing a circle 300 feet in diameter that encompasses the lookout, CCC-built garage, privy, and approximately 100 feet of the road. It also includes immediately adjacent open areas, including the RAWS station, and surrounding conifer stands above the 4,680' elevation contour. The entire property encompasses an area at the highest part of the mountain, approximately 300 feet in diameter, comprising 1.5 acres more or less.

**Boundary Justification**

For purposes of this National Register nomination, the boundary includes the area of Mt. Stella summit immediately encompassing the lookout tower, former AWS residence and privy, and that portion of the access road from which the lookout site is visible (approximately the last 100 feet of road). This area has historically been part of the lookout operation and the boundary forms a discrete, visually identifiable area within which fire detection activities have been the major human activity.

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**Photographs**

Photograph No. 1

- 1) Mt. Stella Lookout
- 2) NW ¼ Section 26, T 30 South, Range 3 East, W.M., Jackson County Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Katherine Atwood
- 4) Date of Photograph: August 1999
- 5) Negative holder: Rogue River National Forest  
P.O. Box 580  
Medford, Oregon 97501
- 5) View of north and east elevations
- 7) Photograph number 1 of 3

Photograph No. 2

- 1) Mt. Stella Lookout Garage
- 2) NW ¼ Section 26, T 30 South, Range 3 East, W.M., Jackson County Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Katherine Atwood
- 4) Date of Photograph: August 1999
- 5) Negative holder: Rogue River National Forest  
P.O. Box 580  
Medford, Oregon 97501
- 6) View of south elevation
- 7) Photograph number 2 of 3

Photograph No. 3

- 1) Mt. Stella Lookout
- 2) NW ¼ Section 26, T 30 South, Range 3 East, W.M., Jackson County Oregon
- 3) Photographer; Unknown
- 4) Date of Photograph: c. 1950
- 5) Negative holder: Rogue River National Forest  
P.O. Box 580  
Medford, Oregon 97501
- 6) Historic View Mt. Stella Lookout
- 7) Photograph number 3 of 3

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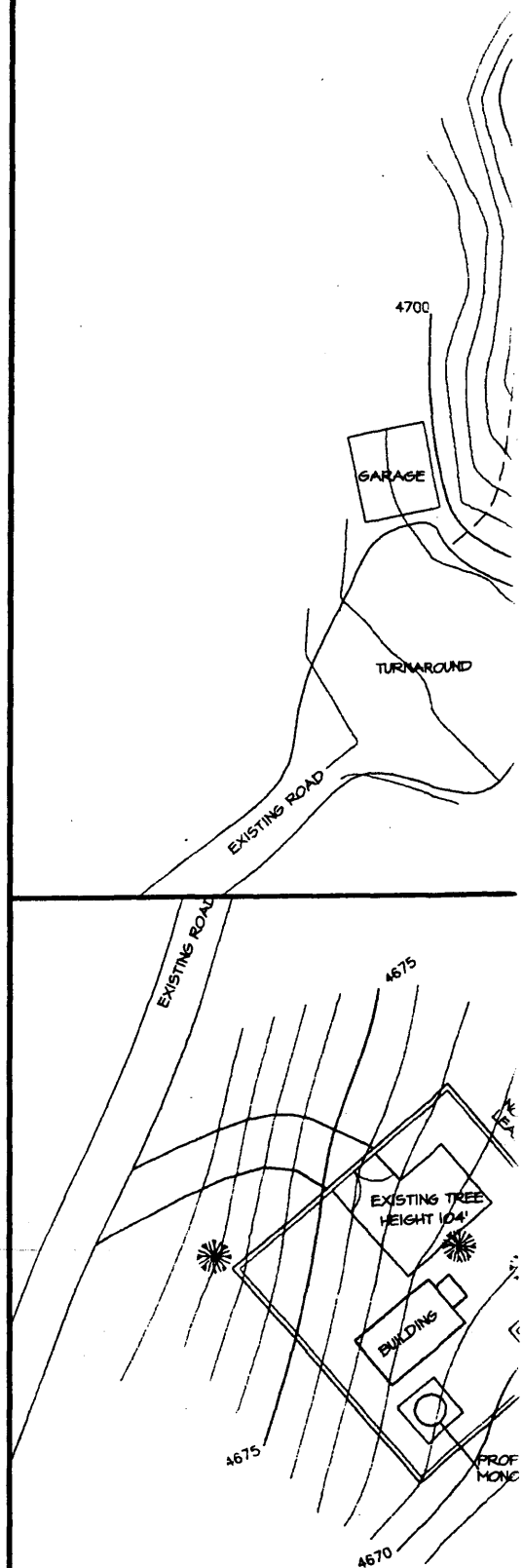
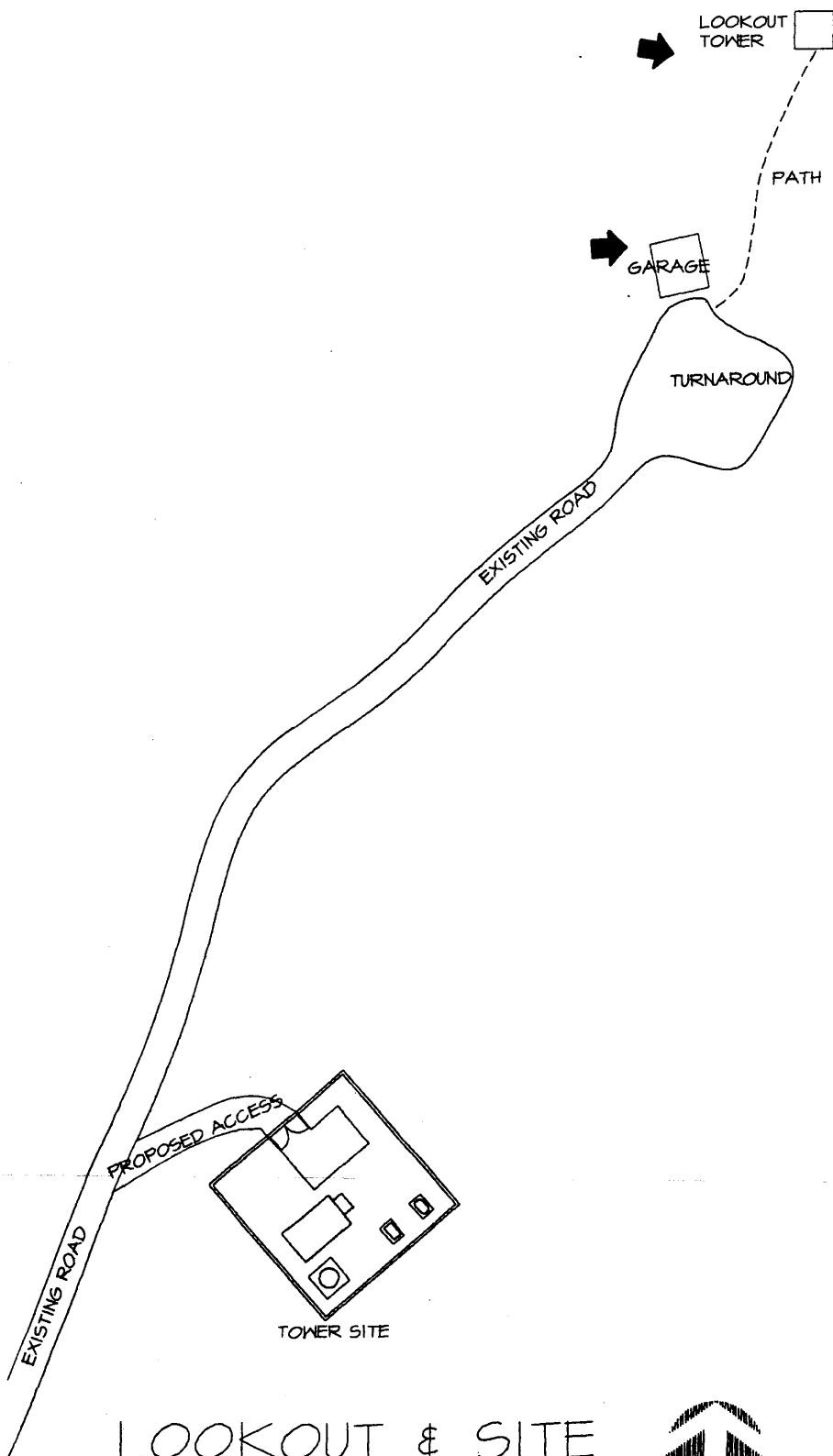
Mt. Stella Lookout

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

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## **Property Owner Notification**

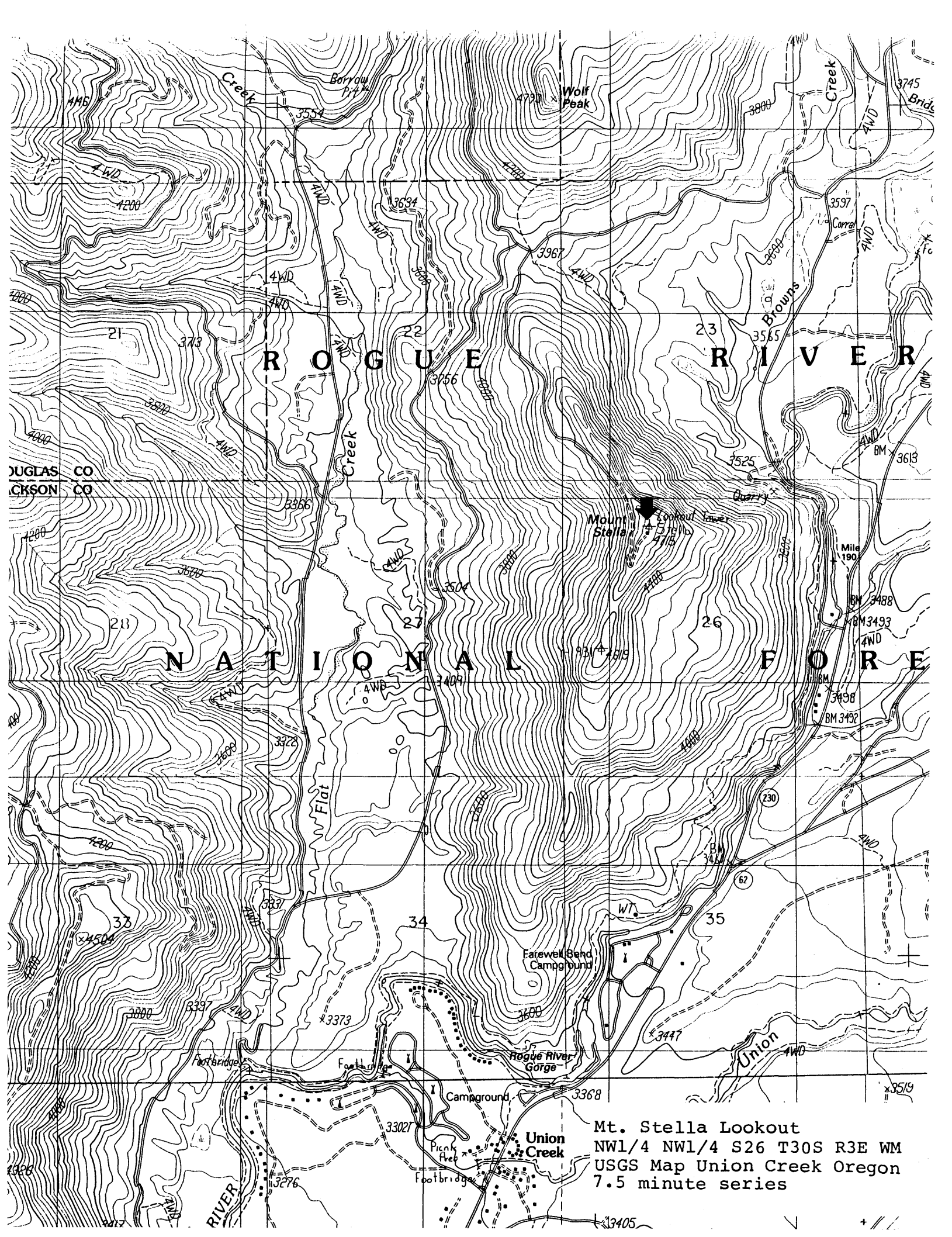
U.S. Forest Service  
J. Michael Lunn, Forest Supervisor  
Jeff LaLande, Forest Archaeologist  
P.O. Box 520  
Medford, Oregon 97501



SITE TOPO

SCALE 1" = 40'





Mt. Stella Lookout  
NW1/4 NW1/4 S26 T30S R3E WM  
USGS Map Union Creek Oregon  
7.5 minute series