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FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT TOWERS OF THE ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



Ranger Walter Kiener at the Twins Sisters Lookout in 1926

DEADMAN LOOKOUT TOWER

National Historic Lookout Register: US #010 / CO #02

[On-Line Topo Map of Deadman Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 10 N, Range 75 W, Sec: 13 SE 1/4

LATITUDE: 40 Deg 49 Min 48 Sec LONGITUDE: 105 Deg 45 Min 03 Sec

USGS QUAD: Deadman

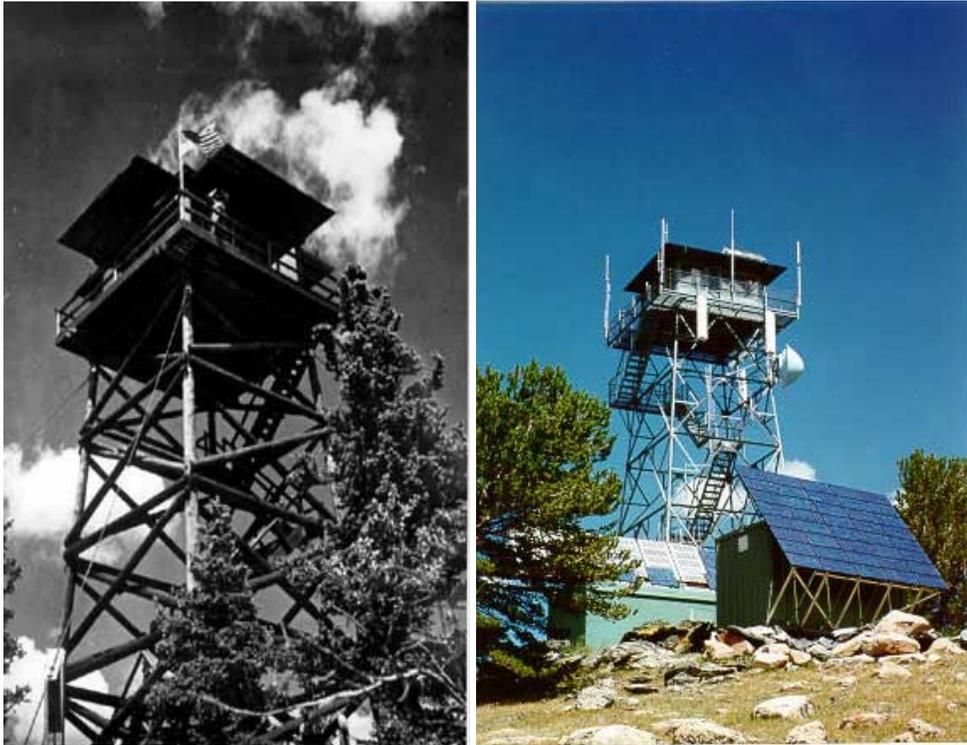
ELEVATION: 10,710 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: 1938 replaced in 1963

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: CL-100 metal cab and tower

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Researching, See below.



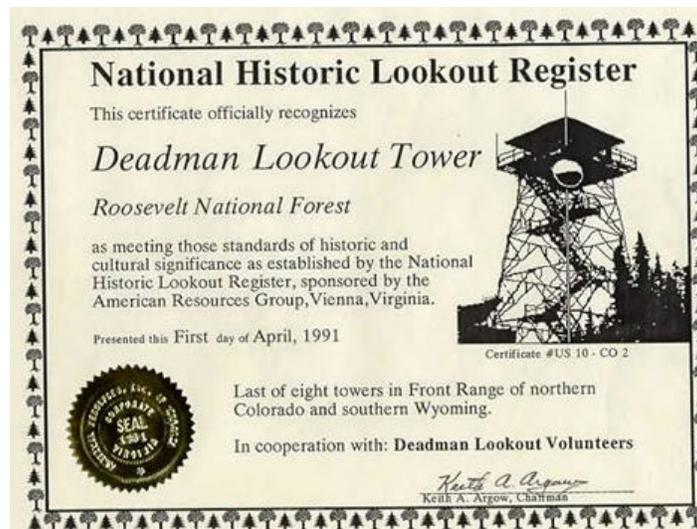
Original Deadman Lookout tower built by CCC's in 1937/38 - Existing Metal Structure built in 1961



Removal of CCC built wood structure Deadman Lookout Tower - 1963



Observer on Deadman Lookout / Ted Hatzimonalio - 1941



SPRUCE MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

[Medicine Bow National Forests Information on Lookout Rental](#)

[On-Line Topo Map of Spruce Mountain](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 14 N, Range 79 W, Sec: 12

LATITUDE: 41 Deg 12 Min 11 Sec LONGITUDE: 106 Deg 13 Min Sec: 01

USGS QUAD: Albany

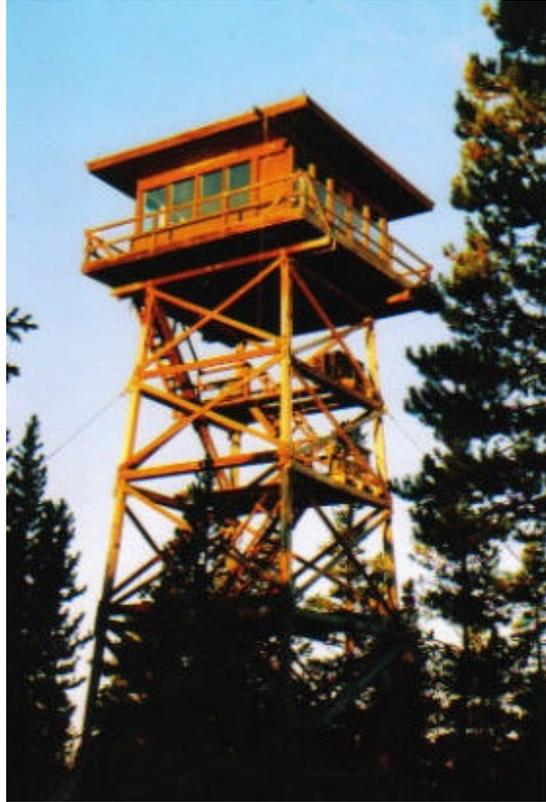
ELEVATION: 10,003 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Medicine Bow National Forest

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: Researching

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE:R-6 Flat top

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:Researching, No historical information is currently available.



JELM MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

[On-Line Topo Map for Jelm Mountain Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 13 N, Range 77 W, Sec: 13

LATITUDE: 41 Deg 05 Min 50 Sec LONGITUDE: 105 Deg 58 Min 34 Sec:

USGS QUAD: Jelm Mountain

ELEVATION: 9,656 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Formerly Wyoming Bureau of Land Management

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: Researching

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: L-4 Extended Rafter

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:Researching, Removed in 1977 for the Wyoming University Astronomical Observatory.



(Lookout removed in 1977 for University of Wyoming Astronomical observatory)



WEST WHITE PINE LOOKOUT (Researching)

[CSU / W7XAQ Rehabilitation Project Website](#)

[On-Line Topo Map of West White Pine Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 7 N, Range 72 W, Sec: 4 NW 1/4

LATITUDE: 40 Deg 36 Min 19 Sec LONGITUDE: Deg 105 Min 28 Sec: 15

USGS QUAD: Crystal Mountain

ELEVATION: 10,305 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Colorado State University-Environmental Learning Center; formerly the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: Believed to be 1939

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE:L-4 Extended Rafter

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: No unusual historical significance. This was the sister lookout to the original Deadman Lookout to the North. Lookout cab was removed by helicopter and placed in Lee Martinez City Park in Fort Collins, Colorado. Was then transferred to current site at the Colorado State University-Environmental Learning Center. Lookout cab needs extensive rehabilitation. Proposal is to rehabilitate the structure and create an interpretive and historical program for lookout tower history. There is very little historical information on this site at this time.



Lookouts sizing up smoke and reporting in using a Type T - Model D Ten Meter Radio in 1952



TWIN SISTERS LOOKOUT

[On-Line Topo Map of Twin Sisters Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 4 N, Range 73 W, Sec: 24

LATITUDE: 40 Deg 17 Min 20 Sec **LONGITUDE:** Deg 105 Min 31 Sec: 04

USGS QUAD: Longs Peak

ELEVATION: 11,428 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Formerly Rocky Mountain national Park

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: Researching

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: Researching

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:Researching, See below.



Rocky Mountain National Park Ranger (HMK) at Twins Sisters Lookout in 1925

TWIN SISTERS LOOKOUT/1962-1976



Pack Train used to supply Twin Sisters Lookout

THORODIN LOOKOUT

[On-Line Topo Map of Thorodin Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

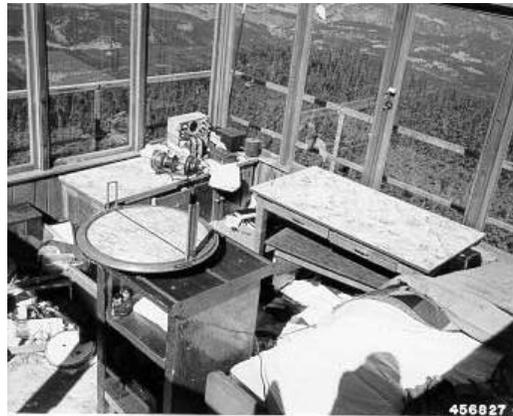
LEGAL: Township 2 S, Range 72 W, Sec: 10 SE 1/4
 LATITUDE: 39 Deg 53 Min 34 Sec LONGITUDE: Deg 105 Min 25 Sec: 01
 USGS QUAD: Tungsten
 ELEVATION: 10,555 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: Researching

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: L-4 Extended Rafter

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Researching.



SQUAW MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

National Historic Lookout Register: US #500 / CO #05

[On-Line Topo Map of Squaw Mountain Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 4 S, Range 72 W, Sec: 30 SW 1/4
 LATITUDE: 39 Deg 40 Min 46 Sec LONGITUDE: 105 Deg 29 Min 32 Sec
 USGS QUAD: Squaw Pass
 ELEVATION: 11,486 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: The Civilian Conservation Corp constructed the present USFS Lookout in 1940. The original 16' X 10' house was constructed in 1925 by the city and county of Denver.

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: L-4 Gable roof, Native stone base with living quarters. Modified roof after 1969 Windstorm.

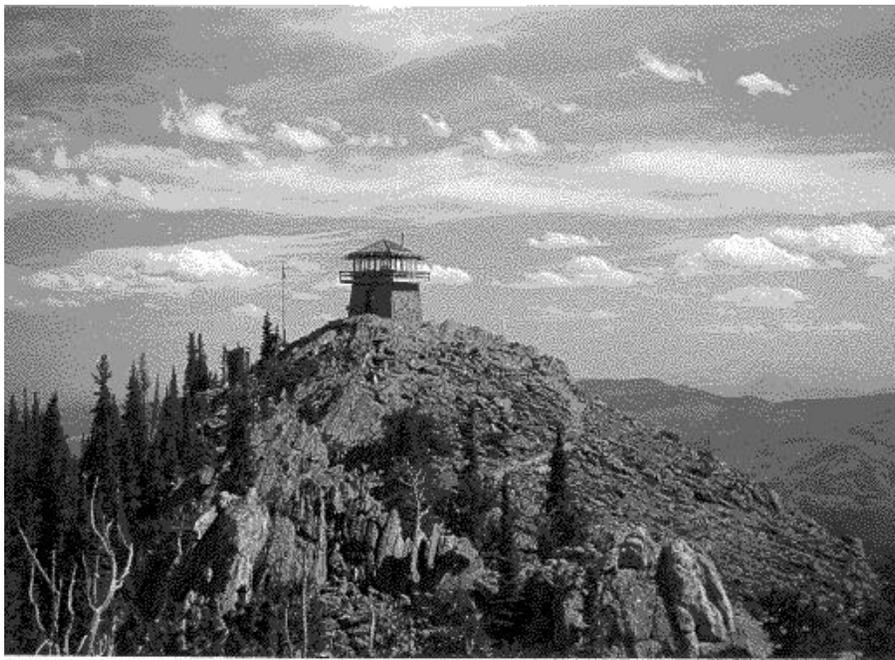
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The original 16' X 10' lookout was constructed in 1925 at a cost of \$731.98 by the city and county of Denver. A garage was constructed at the end of the road, also in 1925, at a cost of \$408.30. A toilet and cistern was also constructed. This site was then administered by the Pike National Forest and transferred to the Arapaho National Forest on January 1, 1937. The lookout was replaced by the USFS due to lack of "seen area" for the national forest. The new lookout was placed higher in elevation by 50 feet, and increased the view by at least 25%, which covered

the Berthoud Pass area of the forest. The present lookout was constructed in 1940 by the Forest Service at a cost of \$4,472.62. Construction was primarily by Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) labor. An electrical line was completed to the site in 1950 and the lookout was equipped with an electric refrigerator. A range was added in 1951.

The original lookout was destroyed by a severe windstorm on January 7, 1969 and subsequently rebuilt. The original gable roof was replaced with a slanted roof to endure wind and snow loads.

16 individuals or couples occupied the lookout from June 1941 until January 1969. In 1960 Bob and Margaret Swanlund began to live in their stone house year around at the saddle of the mountain. Construction of the house took more than 16 years. Bob was an Amateur radio operator (W0WYX) and conducted radio experiments and provided radio communications for surrounding counties and municipalities. It was the highest elevation staffed radio station in the nation for many years. The rock house is now referred to as the "house of radios" as it is currently a communications hub for government, private and amateur radio applications.

The lookout is potentially eligible for the Register of Historic Places. Site 5CC194. Status not confirmed.



Squaw Mountain Lookout - 1941



Squaw Mountain Lookout as it appears today



Former Lookout Residence, currently referred to as "House of Radios"

SHADOW MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

National Historic Lookout Register: US # 534 / CO # 06

[On-Line Topo Map for Shadow Mountain Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 3 N, Range 75 W, Sec: 12 SE 1/4

LATITUDE: 40 Deg 13 Min 49 Sec LONGITUDE: 105 Deg 48 Min 49 Sec

USGS QUAD: Shadow Mountain

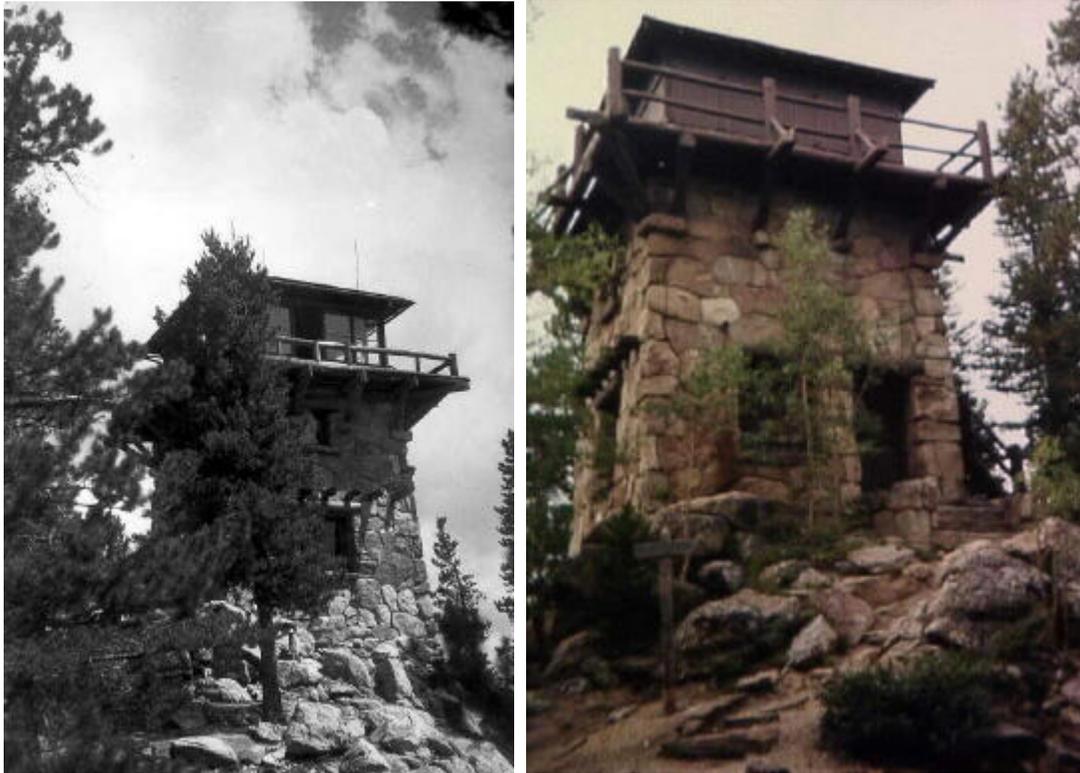
ELEVATION: 9,923Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Rocky Mountain National Park

DATE STRUCTURE COMPLETED: Completed in June 1933.

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: Variation of an L-4 with two lower stories of uncoursed rubble stone masonry.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: National Register of Historic Places: 08/02/1987. Building # 78000279. Believed to be last of four lookouts in Rocky Mountain National Park. (Twin Sisters was one, other sites unknown). Because of the remote location, construction of the tower was completed by packing materials in by mules. In 1930 a “Fire Trail” was constructed to the top of Shadow Mountain and three and one half miles of emergency telephone line was constructed from the Grand Lake Ranger Station (Superintendents Annual Report, 1930, P12 & 17). In 1931 the Park Superintendent reports that the bids for construction of the Shadow Mountain Lookout came in too high and that the plans would have to be redrawn (Superintendents Annual Report, 1931, Construction, Page 3). On August 4, 1932 the lookout was 25% complete. The lookout was declared 90% complete in the Superintendents Annual Report of 1932, Page 7. The lookout was completed in June of 1933 and staffed that year. The lookout remained in use until 1968. The lookout is popular destination point on a hiking trail in Rocky Mountain National Park.



1938 / Present

PARKVIEW LOOKOUT

National Historic Lookout Register: US # 535 / CO # 07

[On-Line Topo Map of Parkview Lookout](#)

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 4 N, Range 78 W, Sec: 9

LATITUDE: 40 Deg 19 Min 49 Sec **LONGITUDE:** Deg 106 Min 08 Sec 08

USGS QUAD: Parkview Mountain

ELEVATION: 12,296 Feet

AGENCY/OWNER: Routt National Forest. On border with the Arapaho-Roosevelt N.F.

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: Built in 1916 by U.S. Forest Service.

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: Lookout House, built predominately with on-site materials. Does not fit any known lookout cab architecture.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center Report 1996 (contracted by USFS)

“The lookout was utilized by the U.S. Forest Service for fire suppression and is representative of the Forest Service’s early mission of protection and conservation. It is architecturally representative of the era when construction of lookouts was executed primarily by Rangers without standardized designs, and built predominantly of materials available on site. It is the only known extant observation type lookout remaining in Colorado national forests.”

Parks Ranger District, Routt National Forest Letter Dated: May 16, 1996

- Proposal for rehabilitation of lookout for “adaptive Use” as an agency radio communications site.
 - Stabilizing the foundation of the structure by replacing eroded material.
 - Repairing the walls and the roof to their original condition and stabilizing the concrete through the application of a water repellent sealant.
 - Replacing the shutters, door (and frame), windows (and frames), with replicas of the originals, restoring the exterior appearance to its original condition.
 - Repairing the interior floors, walls, and ceilings, restoring the interior appearance to its original condition.
- Elevation: 12, 920 Feet. Reputed to be the highest elevation lookout in nation.
-Not used as a lookout in over 55 years.
-Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



DEVIL'S HEAD LOOKOUT

National Historic Lookout Register: US #008, CO #01

Pike & San Isabel National Forests Information on Devil's Head Lookout

On-Line Topo Map of Devil's Head Lookout Tower

LOOKOUT LOCATION:

LEGAL: Township 9 S, Range 69 W, Sec: 15

LATITUDE: 39 Deg 15 Min 37 Sec **LONGITUDE:** 105 Deg 06 Min Sec: 02

USGS QUAD: Devil's Head

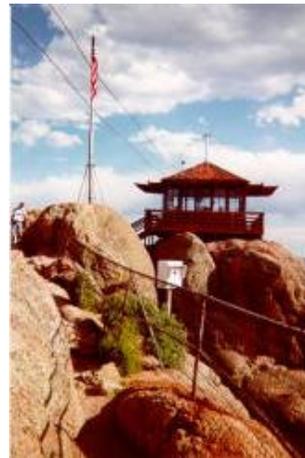
ELEVATION : 9,748 Feet

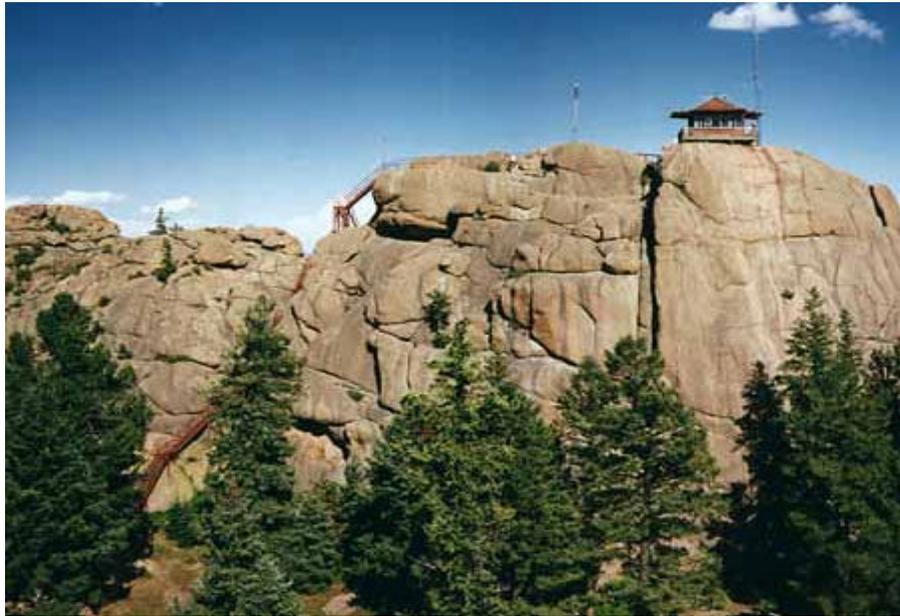
AGENCY/OWNER: Pike/San Isabel National Forests

DATE STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED: Researching

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: L-4

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:Researching.





POINTS OF INTEREST:

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL HISTORIC LOOKOUT REGISTER
AMATEUR RADIO FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT TOWER ASSOCIATION - W7XAQ
(Historical lookout and communications system development at this site)

1952 ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST LOOKOUT AREA SEEN MAP
(Jelm, Deadman, West White Pine, Twin Sisters, Thorodin)

NORTHERN FRONT RANGE LOOKOUT TRIANGULATION MAPS
(MAP 1: Spruce, Jelm / MAP 2: Deadman, West White Pine, Twin Sisters, Thorodin / MAP 3: Squaw, Devil's Head)

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Last Update: November 06, 2006

Website music from the USFS Centennial Movie: "The Greatest Good" Track Title: Forest Fires



USDA Forest Service - Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grasslands

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