

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 9 1986

DATE ENTERED MAY 23 1986

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bishop Mountain Lookout

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Forest Road 80120

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

N/A

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF Island Park

2

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Fremont

CODE

043

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

N/A

STATUS☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region

STREET & NUMBER

324 25th Street

CITY, TOWN

Ogden

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Ogden

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Targhee National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

420 North Bridge Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Anthony

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Targhee National Forest Cultural Resource Inventory (recorded as TG-530)

DATE

December 6, 1984

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Targhee National Forest

CITY, TOWN

St. Anthony

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
—GOOD
—FAIR

☒DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
☒ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bishop Mountain Lookout is located at the end of Forest Road 80120, approximately five air miles west of U.S. Highway 20 (Map 1). It consists of four buildings; a steel lookout tower, a log cabin, a garage and a frame pit toilet (Map 2). There are no other buildings or structures in the vicinity, and the setting is rural and remote.

The buildings are situated at an elevation of 7810' on the summit of Bishop Mountain, an extinct volcanic vent on the rim of the Island Park Caldera. Bedrock is basalt and soils are loamy, Lithic to Typic Chryochrepts. The summit is flat to gently sloping (less than five degrees). Vegetation in the vicinity of the lookout consists of lodgepole pine forest, with subalpine fir also present. Precipitation is about 25" per year, falling mostly as snow. There is no permanent water in the vicinity of the lookout, and water must be hauled in.

The lookout cab has a view of most of the Island Park Caldera and much of the Upper Snake River Plain. The location easily met Regional direction to select a site where a fire guard could see "considerable of the country within a 10 to 15-mile radius" (USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region 1935: BP-15). It provides a panorama of timber harvest and other forest management activities in the Island Park area, and would make an excellent interpretive site.

The arrangement of the buildings is irregular. It generally conforms to Regional guidelines for the layout of administrative facilities (USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region 1935: BP-16-19). The cabin and tower are the first buildings encountered on the approach to the site by road. They and the garage form a group around the road, and the outhouse is placed in the background. The house and garage are somewhat closer to each other than recommended (40' versus 50'). The wooden buildings harmonize with their environment through the use of lodgepole pine logs and log siding (USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region 1935: BP-25). There is no ornamentation of the buildings and construction appears to have employed the simplest techniques consistent with a sound result. There have been no additions or removals of structures since the lookout complex was built between 1936 and 1938, although it can be assumed that the pit toilet has been moved several times.

The facility is currently staffed by Bureau of Land Management personnel during periods of high fire danger on B.L.M.-administered lands. Because of the limited use, maintenance is infrequent. The tower and cabin are in good condition, but the garage and outhouse are deteriorating. The most serious problem is a separation of the top of the southeast garage corner, caused when the roof slipped under snowload (the roof slippage has been repaired). Other problems are primarily matters of peeling paint, loose shingles and decaying wood.

Tower (Map 2, Building No. 1616): The lookout tower is a 72'-high gray steel structure with a 7'x7' enclosed steel cab. It was manufactured by the Aermotor Company of Chicago using their plans MC-39 and MD-79. It does not conform to any

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☒ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1936-1938

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Civilian Conservation Corps/USFS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bishop Mountain Lookout is exceptionally significant at the local and the State levels as a rare example of a class of Forest Service facility with strong aesthetic and emotional appeal, and because of its association with events contributing to the broad patterns of American history.

The Bishop Mountain Lookout is the only lookout remaining on the Targhee National Forest out of at least nine which once existed. The data on southern Idaho contained in Kresek's (1984: 310-321) inventory of lookouts in the Northwest suggest that the tower may also be regionally important as one of the last remaining examples of a metal tower lookout in southeast Idaho. The other buildings are also rare. There are six other known Plan R4-4 cabins remaining in Idaho, only one of which is of log construction. The remainder are frame. There are seven Plan R4-24 garages, all of which are frame.

Lookouts possess aesthetic and emotional appeal to a broad spectrum of Forest users. Users of Forest commodities such as timber and forage appreciate the role of fire detection and suppression in the protection of those commodities. Preservationists appreciate the detection and suppression of man-caused fires. They also see the environmental sensitivity characteristic of many lookout personnel as examples of environmental awareness through wildlands experience. In other words, lookouts provide "something for everyone" in terms of reinforcement of important personal values. The Bishop Mountain Lookout provides the only local opportunity to preserve a property with this appeal.

The lookout buildings were constructed between 1936 and 1938 by members of Company 2515 of the Civilian Conservation Corps, based at Camp Porcupine (F-405), also on the Targhee National Forest. The facility is thus associated with the Federal effort to stimulate recovery from the Depression and exemplifies the work of the C.C.C. on the Targhee.

The C.C.C. was one of the most popular and successful Federal Depression recovery programs. It intergrated over two million young men into the American economic system by rewarding them for work and providing them with experience useful in obtaining more conventional jobs. A prodigious amount of work was accomplished, including the construction of over 3,400 fire lookouts and guard stations. The success of the C.C.C. influenced subsequent thinking about economic relief, with programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps continuing to be modelled on the C.C.C.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kresek, Ray

1984 Fire Lookouts of the Northwest. Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 455960 490890
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Bishop Mountain Lookout is located in the center of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 30, Township 12N, Range 42E, Boise Meridian. The boundary is formed by lines running due east-west, 100m north and 150m south of the point marked "B.M. Elevation 100.00" on Map 2, and running due north-south 100m east and 100m west of the same point. A brass marker has been placed at this point on the lookout site.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James A. McDonald, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

Targhee National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

420 North Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN

St. Anthony

DATE

August 19, 1985

TELEPHONE

(208) 624-3151

STATE

Idaho

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National X State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICIAL

DATE

APR 2 1986

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

standard architectural style. The tower legs are an open steel framework. Entry to the cab is through a trap door. The lower halves of the cab walls are steel panels. The upper halves consist of two square windows, with nine lights arranged in rows of three. One of each pair of windows is pivoted to swing out at the bottom. The roof is pyramidal.

The tower is in generally good condition. The concrete footings developed cracks, which were repaired with epoxy in 1983. Inspection of the steel framework revealed no serious defects. The interior of the cab is in fair condition, with floor covering needed. The fire-finder is present, and is in need of a new map.

Cabin (Map 2, Building No. 1116): The cabin is a 16'x24' one-room log building with a screend porch on the south end. It does not conform well to standard architectural styles, but has been characterized as "neo-colonial" (McDonald 1985). It was built using Intermountain Region Plan R4-4, recommended for facilities used more than 45 days but less than three months (USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region 1935: BP-12).

The foundation is concrete. The logs are square-notched, chinked with concrete and stained brown. There are rectangular, sliding-sash windows with six lights per sash in the east and west walls. A porch runs the length of the south facade, is partially enclosed, and screened. Entry to the cabin is by a single, flush swinging door off-center to the west on the south end. The porch has a single, centered, flush swinging door. The porch columns are round posts. There is a concrete-block chimney on the north end of the building. This replaces an earlier stovepipe that projected through the northwestern portion of the roof. The cabin has a gable roof covered with green wood shingles. The eaves overhang. There are arched louvres under the gables. The interior is finished with painted plywood panels.

Aside from the chimney, the building is unmodified and is in a good state of repair.

Garage (Map 2, Building No. 1310): The garage is a 14'x20' single-car building constructed in the same style as the cabin. Intermountain Region Plan R4-24 was used in the construction, but was modified by deleting the side door.

The garage has a concrete foundation and floor. The logs are square-notched, chinked with concrete and stained brown. There is one window, a fixed sash type with four panes per sash, in the east side. Entry for both people and vehicles is by double swinging doors set flush in the south end of the building. The garage has a gable roof with overhanging eaves. It is covered with green wood shingles. The interior is not finished.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Several years ago, snowloads caused the roof to slip to the west. The roof was then hit by a falling tree. Many rafters and roof planks were broken. The rafters consisted of a native lodgepole pine logs, peeled and planed on the top surface. They were replaced in 1985 with duplicate materials (McDonald 1985b). The planks were 1" x 6 7/8" tongue-and-groove boards. They were replaced with 1" x 7" plain boards. The Grade 3 fine cut exterior shingles were replaced with Grade 2 shingles. At the same time, the lodgepole tie beams were replaced with duplicate materials and a ridgepole and braces placed under the roof to prevent future snow damage. The most serious problem remaining is a separation of the top of the southeast corner that occurred when the roof slipped.

Toilet (Map 2, Builindg No. 1605): The toilet is a 3' x 4' frame building with false log siding. The siding is painted brown. There is no foundation. The roof is a gable type, with overhanging eaves and green-painted wood shingles. There are triangular screened vents under the gables. The door is a single, swinging door.

The toilet is in fair condition. The original wood bench seat has been replaced with a metal riser and plastic seat. The panels on the door have begun to warp.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The lookout buildings represent plans and construction techniques typical of the C.C.C. era. The cabin and garage translate plans for frame buildings into log construction, as recommended for coniferous forest settings (USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region 1935: BP-25). The use of standard plans was a Forest Service response to the influx of C.C.C. labor. They freed agency personnel for field supervision, and allowed crew experience to be transferred directly between projects. Modifications to the C.C.C. construction at Bishop Mountain have been few, providing a uniquely well-preserved example of their work. Such repairs as are needed can easily duplicate original construction practices.

Boundary Justification: The property boundary includes all the structures of the lookout complex, and includes enough of the surrounding forest to preserve the setting of the buildings. It can be readily demarcated on aerial photographs and on the ground, an important consideration given the lack of readily-defined topographic or vegetational boundaries.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

McDonald, James A.

1985a Cultural resource inventory, pre-1950 Targhee National Forest
administrative sites, TG-85-198. Targhee National Forest,
St. Anthony.

1985b Bishop Mountain Lookout garage repairs, TG-85-246. Targhee
National Forest, St. Anthony.

USDA, Forest Service, Intermountain Region

1935 Building Construction Manual. Ogden.

USDA, Forest Service, Targhee National Forest

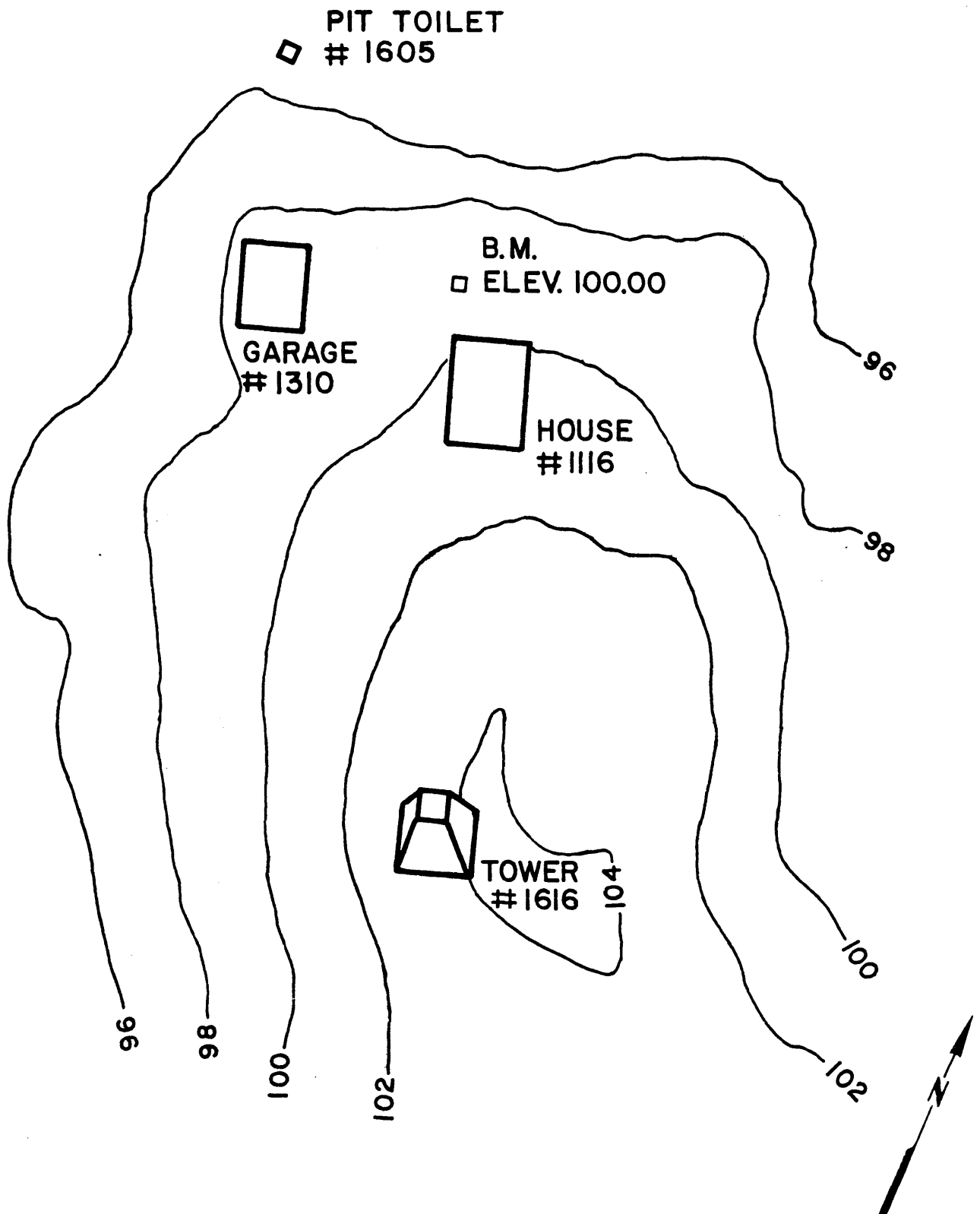
1960 (History) files

2360 (Special Interest Areas) files

7300 (Buildings) files

Bishop Mountain Lookout
Targhee National Forest
Fremont County, Idaho

Map 2



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Bishop Mountain Lookout
Fremont County, IDAHO

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
APPROVAL

Date/Signature

for Keeper William B. Bushong
1/14/87



Bishop Mountain Lookout

Island Park Vicinity, Fremont County, Idaho

J. McDonald, 8/7/85

Targhee N.F. CRM Serial # 1351

Grounds, view from SE

Photograph 1 of 5



Bishop Mountain Lookout
Island Park Vicinity, Fremont County,
Idaho

J. McDonald, 9/10/85

Targhee N.F. CRM Serial # 1368

Tower, view from N

Photograph 2 of 5



Bishop Mountain Lookout

Island Park Vicinity, Fremont County, Idaho

J. McDonald, 8/7/85

Targhee N.F. CRM Serial # 1324

Cabin, view from SE

Photo 3 of 5



Bishop Mountain Lookout
Island Park Vicinity, Fremont County, Idaho
J. McDonald, 8/7/85

Targhee N. F. CRM Serial # 1328

Garage, view from SE

Photograph 4 of 5



Bishop Mountain Lookout
Island Park Vicinity, Fremont County,
Idaho

J. McDonald, 8/7/85

Targhee N. F. CRM Serial # 1331

Toilet, view from SE

Photograph 5 of 5



Bishop Mountain Lookout
Targhee National Forest
Fremont County, Idaho

Photograph 1 of 2

Garage, view from SE. Following repairs.

Replacement materials unpainted.

J. McDonald, 8/14/86



Bishop Mountain Lookout
Targhee National Forest
Fremont County, Idaho
Photograph 2 of 2

Garage, views from NW. Following repairs.

Replacement materials are unpainted.
J. McDonald, 8/14/86