United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
   other names/site number SITS# 10-IH-1543, IHSI# SL-00297

2. Location
   street & number Approx 40 mi NE of the town of Salmon, ID
   city or town __________________________
   state Idaho code ID county __________________________ code 049 zip code 83638

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 X local

   Signature of certifying official/Title __________________________ Date __________________________
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government __________________________

   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
   __________________________ Date 10-15-18
   Signature of certifying official __________________________
   Title __________________________ 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:)

   Signature of the Keeper __________________________ Date of Action __________________________
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

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1. **Name of Property**

   historic name   Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout  
   other names/site number   SITS# 10-IH-1543, IHSI# SL-00297  

2. **Location**

   street & number   Approx 40 mi NE of the town of Salmon, ID  
   city or town   Salmon  
   state   Idaho  
   county   Idaho  
   code   049  
   zip code   83638  

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  
   
   Signature of certifying official/Title   Date  
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government  
   
   In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
   Signature of commenting official   Date  
   Title   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government  

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   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:)  
   
   Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action
5. Classification

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<td>GOVERNMENT - VACANT/Not in Use</td>
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7. Description

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<td>roof: WOOD/SHINGLE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>other:</td>
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Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property
Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph
The Butts Creek Point fire lookout (also identified as Butts Point) is located in central Idaho on the breaks of the Salmon River Canyon within the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, which is the second largest federally designated wilderness area in the lower forty-eight states. Situated at 7,836’ mean sea level the ten-acre locale is on a prominent knob surrounded by a forest of mixed lodgepole and fir with an understory of native grasses rooted in decomposed granitic soils. The site contains two buildings and a helipad and is managed by the Salmon National Forest – North Fork Ranger District. The primary structure is the 14’ X 14’ hip roofed lookout cab that was constructed using the standard lookout R-4 Plan 80 blueprints in 1933. The lookout’s four walls of glass provide a dramatic 360-degree view of some of the most remote landscapes in the continental United States. Mountain ranges that can be seen from the building are: the Clearwater Mountains, the Bitterroot Mountains, the Bighorn Crags, and the Salmon River Mountains. The other contributing building is a single seat latrine that was constructed using the standard R-4 Plan 70 privy blueprints and dates to the same era.

Narrative Description
Construction on the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 80 cab was started in 1933. The two-story structure sits atop a foundation composed of concrete and stacked granite stone. Sandwiched between the cab and the foundation is a first-floor storeroom built of uniform peeled (eight to ten-inch diameter) lodgepole pine and finished with traditional square-notched corners with ends that are vertically saw-cut. The exterior chinking of the horizontal log walls is cement and the interior chinking is quarter log pole. The only feature within the first floor walls is a framed door located on the far right of the south elevation. This lower portion of the building supports a series of log ceiling joists, which create the cab’s floor joists and the primary beams for the catwalk. From these main beams four vertical timbers on each corner further strengthen the catwalk, which is built of peeled lodgepole pine. The overall footprint of the catwalk is 20’ X 20’. On the south elevation, the catwalk is a foot wider and contains a set of stairs constructed of milled lumber.

The pre-manufactured framed cab measures 14’ X 14’. The three main walls are comprised of five sashes, each containing nine lights per sash (three over three). Each sash measures 4’4” X 2’7”. The south elevation has one less window, which provides for the entrance, measuring 6’4” X 2’4”. The door has a six-paned window (three lights side by side) over a single recessed panel. The door is finished with period-correct brass Yale-brand hardware. The remaining exterior is covered with horizontal shiplap siding painted white and trimmed with milled 1” X 4” boards painted dark green. The distinctive hip roof is shingled and topped with a square copper lightning rod. This rod has four distinctive copper leads that are wired into the structures lightning protection system. The north, east, and west roof panels are stained green, while the south panel is stained orange to help highlight the aerial number of “69” that is painted yellow and black. These aerial numbers were originally intended as aircraft navigational aids.

While the building on both the interior and the exterior contains pleasant design characteristics, there is a functional intent to most of its features as the result of being a fire lookout facility. The hinged exterior shutters serve a dual purpose, protecting the windows in the off-season from extreme weather conditions and providing shade to the interior during the summer. Currently the shutters are propped open with 2” X 2” wooden supports from the shutter ends to the deck railings. This modification was made in 1944 when the L-4 cab was placed atop of a newly constructed log storeroom. Originally these 2” X 2” props extended to the ground.\(^1\)

The lookout lived and worked in the cab, so the interior is thoughtfully laid out. For the person staffing the lookout to be as proficient as possible in spotting fires it is important to have an unobstructed 360-degree view of the landscape. As a result, all the original interior components such as the bed, wood stove, and cabinetry were built to stand below the windowsills. At the center of the Butts Creek Lookout is the alidade (firefinder) that is the primary instrument used to

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\(^1\) Elizabeth M. Smith, *A History of the Salmon National Forest*, (Salmon, ID: USDA, Intermountain Region, Salmon National Forest, 1972), 120.

\(^2\) Butts Point Lookout Site (file), SL-00297, SITS# 10-IH-1543. On file at the Salmon-Challis National Forest Heritage Program.
locate and properly record the locations of fires. The Butts Creek firefinder is the original 1934 Osborne model. The interior walls, ceiling, and floor retain their original character. The walls and ceiling are finished with milled lumber and the floor is composed of varnished 1” X 2” tongue and groove hardwood floorboards. A small 2’ x 2’ panel in the ceiling trimmed with milled 1” X 4” fir allows access to a small storage area located between the interior ceiling and the roof.

Built at the same time as the R-4 Plan 80 lookout was a standard-designed R-4 Plan 70 privy located to the southwest of the lookout. Similar to the standard plan lookout designs these single seat latrines were pre-cut kits drafted by Forest Service engineers. The Butts Creek Point privy is a solid example of Region 4’s interpretation of this building design. The 4’ X 4’ balloon framed building stands 8’ tall and is not supported by a foundation. The walls are clad with simple horizontal shiplap siding painted white and trimmed vertically with milled 1” X 4” painted green. The gable roof is covered with wooden shingles and is also trimmed with 1” X 4”, painted green. A door built of milled 1” X 4”s placed vertically is located in the west wall and is hung using three hinges.

The third building added to the site during the same era was a non-standard plan fly shed located about one-hundred yards south of the lookout building. The fly shed was built of native peeled logs and was used to house pack animals (stock) working area trails or packing goods to the lookout. The fly shed was removed in 1960, but a 10’ X 14’ level area where it once stood remains visible. The removal of this building does not detract from the site’s historical integrity or significance. Other features currently at the site include a pair of log hitching rails located to the south east of the L-4, and a rail fence situated to the north. All of these are considered to be non-contributing elements to the historic property.

In 1961 the helipad (helicopter landing area), located thirty feet to the north of the lookout building, was added to the site and is considered a significant contributing element to the property. The 10’ X 10’ helipad is simply a leveled area comprised of granitic topsoil and boarded with angular granite rocks. Although the helipad does not date to the same period as the other contributing elements it is an important feature to the site’s history and illustrates the changes in Forest Service management during the twentieth century in both transportation and in fire control.

After the completion of the permanent buildings in the 1930s, the site was used seasonally as part of the North Fork Ranger District’s fire detection system through the summer of 1982.

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ii Dr. Philip Krueger, Personal Communication, 5 August 2013.
iv Krueger, Personal Communication.
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.  
X

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.

X less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT

CONSERVATION

Period of Significance

1933-1982

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

USDA Forest Service

Period of Significance (justification)

The Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout was used continuously for United States Forest Service (USFS) fire detection from 1933 until 1982. The POS therefore extends to 1982, the date at which the lookout was fully decommissioned from its active use as a fire detection facility by the USFS. A more arbitrary date of 50 years prior to NRHP nomination submission date could be applied; however, the 1982 date reflects the point at which the
property ceased to be used for its original (significant) historic use and is the more logical date at which to close the POS.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

This fire lookout falls within the category of properties that continue to achieve significance into a period less than fifty years before the nomination. However, the somewhat arbitrary mark of fifty years is, as stated in National Register Bulletin 15, meant to allow for “the time needed to develop historical perspective and evaluate significance. This consideration guards against the listing of properties of passing contemporary interest and ensures that the National Register is a list of truly historic places.”

In fact, fire lookouts are long established as eligible for the National Register for the very important role that they have played in the broad pattern of history associated with the USFS fire detection program and conservation. Many fire lookouts are listed on the NRHP, including several in Idaho, and there is no question remaining as to whether or not they are a property of “passing contemporary interest”; they are not. Therefore, the POS close-date of 1982 is logical and appropriate for this property.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph  (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Butts Creek Point site meets National Register eligibility under Criterion A as the “[P]roperty is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.” The property is one of the last remaining historic lookouts of its type (Plan 80) in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. This well-kept lookout not only signifies the important role fire lookouts played in our nation’s conservation movement during the twentieth century, but it helps to preserve the social and human experiences of people who worked at these remote locations.

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

History of Fire Lookouts and Conservation

The implementation of fire lookouts began in the Northwest during the late nineteenth century when timber companies started utilizing them as tools to protect valuable trees from wildland fire. From a well-placed vantage point, a firewatcher could pinpoint a fire and have it extinguished before it had a chance to grow. Their use spread to government agencies such as the United States Forest Service who were responsible for managing and protecting public lands. Early lookout facilities were known as “rag camps” and generally consisted of a wooden tent-platform and a stand for the firefinder. The major catalyst for the wide-spread implementation of fire lookouts occurred in response to the catastrophic fires of 1910 that swept the Northwest. These massive fires created a mission and an identity for the Forest Service who vowed to suppress all types of fire. During the post-1910 era the agency began to build permanent structures to protect lookout personnel from lightning and weather throughout the fire season, thus allowing them to have a twenty-four hour watch over the forest. These initial buildings were primarily constructed of native materials found near the site and varied in architectural style and design.

Due to the remote locations of fire lookouts, construction of permanent buildings proved difficult. To solve the problem Forest Service engineers and architects drafted blueprints for efficient prefabricated buildings that could be pre-cut, bundled, packed, and then assembled on site within a few months. The major growth in fire lookout construction occurred between 1933 and 1942, a period that coincides with one of our nations most prolific conservation movements. In an effort to combat the economic hardships of the Great Depression, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created numerous government programs including several directly targeted toward

6 Kresek, Fire Lookouts of the Northwest, 9.
conservation. The most noteworthy of these programs in Idaho was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that functioned from 1933 to 1942. With the exception of California, Idaho had the most CCC camps west of the Mississippi. In the end, the program was responsible for building a massive infrastructure of roads, trails, ranger stations, fire lookouts, communication systems, and it rehabilitated hundreds of thousands of acres of forested lands.

The construction of permanent lookouts was not solely a direct consequence of the CCC’s efforts, but was also the outcome of several consecutively bad fire years. Two of the worst fires during this time were Oregon’s Tillamook Fire of 1933 and Idaho’s Selway Fire of 1934. The Tillamook Fire was particularly significant since it was the first time the CCC engaged in firefighting. The federal government declared the Tillamook Fire an emergency, therefore the fire was fought using the labor and money of the CCC, as provided by the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) program. With this precedence in place, the Forest Service began to rely exclusively on this avenue of firefighting (both in funding and labor). The Forest Service continued to control ECW monies after the CCC program disbanded in 1942, which entrenched their position as a firefighting agency.

Reacting in part to the Selway Fire, the Forest Service issued a new policy in 1935 called the 10 A.M. Policy. The policy proposed that a fire should be under control by 10 A.M. the day following the report of the fire. If it was not under control by 10 A.M. the succeeding day, it would be under control the next day by 10 A.M. and the pattern would continue until the fire was put out. To insure prompt initial attack, the lookout network was utilized extensively.

With the advent of World War II the CCC disbanded. However, the goals of the 10 A.M. Policy became even more important as the Forest Service faced a shortage of manpower and funding caused by the war effort. To combat the problem, the Forest Service again implemented the use of fire lookouts, especially those located along the Pacific Coast portion of the Northwest. These lookouts functioned as part of the fire suppression program and collaborated with the military’s Aircraft Warning System. In some cases, lookout stations operated year-round because of the threat of an air invasion from the Japanese.

Interior regions of the Northwest including Idaho also used lookouts as a defense from the dual enemies of fire and the Japanese. These inland lookouts were vital in spotting Japanese balloons carrying incendiary bombs that were launched from their coast into the jetstream. The intent of the balloon-carrying bombs was to start massive forest fires that essentially could deplete the United States’s natural resources and labor force. Idaho fire lookouts reported several of these balloons from 1944 to 1945; however, the Japanese campaign was relatively ineffective.

The postwar era continued the use of the 10 A.M. Policy, but the Forest Service ushered in the use of new technology developed during the war, such as smokejumper programs, aerial fire patrols, aerial retardants, and a more improved road network. The fire lookout system had reached its zenith. Throughout the system’s development, the rugged landscape of Idaho had well over 1,000 locations designated as fire lookouts, far more than any other state. Of these locations approximately 700 received permanent buildings. Today only about 165 of these unique buildings survive.

Through the early 1960s fire lookout personnel generally continued to physically fight fire within a twenty-mile radius of their station. However, physically fighting fire was slowly phased out within a few years, leaving lookouts chiefly accountable for fire detection and communication purposes. By the early 1970s the Forest Service completely discarded the 10 A.M. Policy and began to embrace the concept of “fire management” instead of the agency’s old idea of “fire control.” A new policy released in 1978 no longer focused on eliminating fire completely, but instead took a wider look at allowing fires to burn. As a consequence of the policy change, fire lookouts, notably those within wilderness areas were needed less and less. By 1985 fire management plans for

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7 Forest History Society, Shellworth, (New Haven, CT: Yale University, 1963), 39–45.
10 Pyne, 276.
11 Pyne, 282.
13 Kresek, Fire Lookouts of the Northwest, 83.
14 Pyne, 289.
15 Gary Weber, Personal Communication, 18 September 2013. Weber has served more than twenty years as the Idaho/Montana director of the Forest Fire Lookout Association.
16 Weber, Personal Communication.
the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness outlined very specific criteria for extinguishing naturally occurring fires, allowing most to burn through a monitoring system.\textsuperscript{17} While fire management policies were a major factor in the decline of fire lookout use in central Idaho, the federal designation of wilderness areas also had a direct impact on the preservation of lookout structures. From 1964 to 1980, 3.6 million acres of federal land in central Idaho gained wilderness status. Within this land mass the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness covers 2.3 million acres, making it the second-largest wilderness area in the lower forty-eight states. Inside the present boundaries of the Frank Church Wilderness an estimated one hundred locations were used as lookout sites and roughly fifty of these contained permanent buildings. With the goals of wilderness in mind many of the permanent buildings were intentionally removed to eliminate signs of human impact on the landscape. As a result about thirty lookout buildings remain, but in varying conditions. From these few examples, only one site (Arctic Point) is listed on the NRHP (94001019) and twenty-three others are considered eligible to the NRHP, fifteen of which are variations of the R-4 Plan 80 cab.\textsuperscript{18}

Development of the Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

The Butts Creek Point fire lookout is representative of both the Forest Service’s evolving fire policy and the conservation movement that were sparked by the New Deal federal spending programs. Murdoch McNicoll and a crew began construction on the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 80 ground cab in 1933 and probably finished it the same year.\textsuperscript{19} The standard lookout R-4 Plan 80 was derived from the Forest Service’s Northern Region’s (Region 1) R.1 Plan L-4. This initial lookout plan commonly became known as the “L-4” meaning “lookout” style number “four” among a series of standard plan drawings.\textsuperscript{20} Region 1 based the majority of the L-4 design on Region 5’s (Pacific Southwest Region) Plan A-4 lookout cab. The L-4 became one of the most identifiable lookout designs in the Northwest through 1953.\textsuperscript{21} Not long after the plan’s inception, the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) adopted the design, followed by the Intermountain Region (Region 4).\textsuperscript{22} Each region’s engineers took the plans and added their own design modifications and improvements.\textsuperscript{23} Region 4 architect George L. Nichols was responsible the design additions published in 1933 as R-4 Plan 80.\textsuperscript{24} From 1929 though 1931 the 14’ X 14’, pre-cut, L-4 framed lookout house featured a gable roof. Several window and sill wall designs were experimented with through 1931 on various applications. One of the only prototypes still in existence of this early design is Idaho’s Mallard Peak Lookout (NRHP #84001178) that was finished in 1929. The major architectural features seen on the Butts Point cab were the result of improvements made to plans published in 1932 and 1933.\textsuperscript{25} The last major updates to the L-4 and R-4 Plan 80 occurred in 1936. The most distinguishable characteristic of the 1932–33 designs are the shingled hip roof.\textsuperscript{26} Another unique aspect of the R-4 Plan 80 cabs is that they came as pre-cut kits ready to assemble on the mountaintop. Generally the Forest Service contracted with several places throughout the Northwest to pre-cut and package the buildings. Two confirmed companies that produced the kits include a mill in Columbia Falls, Montana, and the Aladdin Lumber Company located in Vancouver, Washington. In some regions the cabs sometimes became nicknamed the “Aladdin” because of the Vancouver-based company. Once the kits were completed they were packaged in equal weight bundles in one of two ways: either for truck delivery or for pack string delivery. It was common for the shipping and packing information to be stenciled on the roof and floor joists.\textsuperscript{27} This information is still evident at Butts Point. The Butts Point R-4 Plan 80 kit was bundled for pack string delivery and transported to the site by Earl Poyner, who used a string of ten mules.\textsuperscript{28} Since the completion of the permanent buildings in the 1930s the lookout was used seasonally as part of the North Fork Ranger District’s fire detection system through the summer of 1982. Subsequently, the site was

\textsuperscript{17} Larry Swan, Personal Communication, 4 March 2005. Swan is a former Payette National Forest Fire Management Officer from this era.
\textsuperscript{18} Timothy W. Canaday, Cultural Resource Overview of the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, (Salmon, ID: Salmon-Challis National Forest, Forest Service, USDA, 2012).
\textsuperscript{19} Smith, 120.
\textsuperscript{20} Ray Kresek, Personal Communication, 28 August 2013. Kresek is the owner and curator of the Fire Lookout Museum located in Spokane, WA. Kresek is considered one of the foremost authorities on fire lookouts in the western United States.
\textsuperscript{21} Kresek, Fire Lookouts of the Northwest, 11–12.
\textsuperscript{22} Kresek, Personal Communication.
\textsuperscript{24} Kathryn Burnside, George L. Nichols: Regional Architect, Region 4, (Ogden, UT: USDA, Forest Service, Intermountain Region, 2006), 29.
\textsuperscript{25} Kresek, Personal Communication.
\textsuperscript{26} Kresek, Personal Communication.
\textsuperscript{27} Kresek, Personal Communication.
\textsuperscript{28} Smith, 120.
modified over time to accommodate changing technology, such as the transition from telephone communication to radios, and overall fire policy changes within the agency. In 1944 one of the largest changes was made to the building at the suggestion of the district ranger. The ranger approved plans to lift the cab onto the present log cribbing. The additional space allowed for storage and in a pinch could afford quarters for a five men crew detailed to the area for fire or general maintenance. At the same time an exterior staircase constructed of milled lumber was added to the south side of the lookout to provide access to the second story.  

Further modifications occurred to Butts Point when lookout employee Philip Krueger (1960–64) built the perimeter catwalk in the summer of 1961. To construct the main uprights of the catwalk Krueger used logs from the dilapidated fly shed and created the decking from nearby stands of lodgepole. The completed decking increased the building’s footprint to the current 20’ X 20’ dimensions.

The same year, the helipad (helicopter landing area), located thirty feet to the north of the lookout building was added to the site and is considered a significant contributing element to the property. Although the helipad does not date to the same period as the other contributing elements it is an important feature to the site’s history and illustrates the changes in Forest Service management during the twentieth century in both transportation and fire control. Starting in 1953 Region 1 began experimenting with helicopters in connection to fire control activities on the Nez Perce National Forest’s Moose Creek Ranger District. After several years the helicopters proved to be more cost efficient in getting men and equipment on and off fires, as well as getting personnel and equipment to remote fire lookouts. The helicopter’s use slowly spread throughout the agency, particularly in remote regions where pack animals were still the primary mode of transporting equipment. To utilize the efficiency of the helicopter, helipads were built at centralized points such as fire lookouts and other administrative facilities. The new mode of transportation could move men and equipment from a lookout site within an hour instead of mules that would take a day to do the same job. However, the combination of changing social values and the designation of the area as wilderness in 1980 made the use of helicopters relatively short-lived. In fact it is no longer legal to land a helicopter at locations such as Butts Creek Point.

The same year the helipad was completed, it played an important role in the suppression efforts of the nearby Corn Creek Fire. This fire was significant as it was the first million-dollar fire the Forest Service fought. From Butts Point helicopters relayed radio communications and flew patrol on the fire.

Butts Creek Point received major repairs and maintenance during the summers of 1977 and 1982. Crews painted, stained, and repaired deteriorating surfaces, keeping the original appearance as much as possible. The lookout was placed on emergency use status after 1982 for a few years before being completely decommissioned. Since the late-1970s through today, former lookout employee Dr. Philip Krueger and his family have volunteered with the North Fork Ranger District to maintain the lookout facility. Through their yearly stewardship the lookout has been well preserved and represents one of the finest examples of its type in the region.

Social History Related to Fire Lookouts

Fire lookouts hold an aesthetic and poignant appeal to forest personnel (past and present) and various user groups. These sites are culturally rich resources that tend to draw romantic notions about our nation’s wild places and leave lasting impressions on people who staff and visit them.

With such affectionate feelings stirred by these places it is not surprising that they have earned their own place in the literary world, attracting an assortment of authors. Popular writers associated with fire lookouts include Edward Abbey, Gary Snyder, and Jack Kerouac. The latter two authors, commonly identified as the most well-known of the Beat era, dedicated entire books to the subject, often drawing on biographical experiences from summers spent on fire lookouts in remote areas of Washington State. Locally, Idaho has attracted numerous writers who have also captured their cultural experiences on lookouts. Out of nearly a dozen books devoted to the theme of Idaho lookouts, two of the best are directly associated with the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the current area of the Frank Church Wilderness. The titles are Lookout Wife by Jeanne Kellar Beaty (1953) and Mountains of Memory: A Fire Lookout’s Life in the River of No Return Wilderness by Don Scheese.

While lookouts appeal to the scholarly they also appeal to thrill-seeking outdoors men and women. Lookout sites represent some of the most challenging destinations within our national forests. Due to the broad assortment of people interested in lookouts, the Forest Fire Lookout Association formed in 1990 with the mission to protect, enjoy, preserve, and better understand these sites.

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29 Butts Point Lookout Site (file), SL-00297, SITS# 10-1H-1543. On file at the Salmon-Challis National Forest Heritage Program.
30 Krueger, Personal Communication.
31 Carole Simon-Smolinski and Don Biddison, Moose Creek Ranger District Historical Information Inventory and Review, (Clarkston, WA: Northwest Historical Consultants, 1988), 111.
32 Krueger, Personal Communication.
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Butts Point Lookout Site (file), SL-00297, SITS# 10-IH-1543. On file at the Salmon-Challis National Forest Heritage Program.


Dr. Philip Krueger, Personal Communication, 5 August 2013.


Carole Simon Smolinski and Don Biddison, Moose Creek Ranger District Historical Information Inventory and Review, (Clarkston, WA: Northwest Historical Consultants, 1988), 111.

Ira Spring and Byron Fish, Lookouts: Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics, (Seattle, WA: The Mountaineers, 1996).
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Idaho County, Idaho


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  5

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

LATITUDE: 45.361554
LONGITUDE: -114.737347

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

A five acre parcel of which the historic lookout building is at the precise center.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property includes the three contributing resources - the fire lookout (which sits at the center point of the nominated property), the latrine, and the helipad, and includes enough of the surrounding site to appropriately understand the context and setting.
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Idaho County, Idaho

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard H. Holm, Jr.
organization Cold Mountain Press
date February 2014
street & number 2816 W. Hill Rd
telephone 208-315-2567
city or town Boise
state ID
zip code 83703
e-mail

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho State: Idaho
Photographer: Luke Channer

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0001
   South-west elevation of lookout building, camera facing north-east, July 16, 2014.

2 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0002
   South-west elevation of lookout building, camera facing north-east, July 16, 2014.

3 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0003
   South-west elevation of lookout building, camera facing north-east, July 16, 2014.

4 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0004
   North-west elevation of lookout building, camera facing south-west, July 16, 2014.
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property
Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

5 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
North-east elevation of lookout building, camera facing south-west, July 16, 2014.

6 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0006
South-east elevation of lookout building, camera facing north-west, July 16, 2014.

7 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
North-east elevation of lookout building, camera facing south-west, July 16, 2014.

8 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
South-east corner of lookout building, camera facing north-west, July 16, 2014.

9 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
West (left) and north (right) interior walls of lookout building, camera facing north-west, July 16, 2014.

10 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
East (left) and south (right) interior walls of lookout building, camera facing south, July 16, 2014.

11 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
West elevation of lookout building, camera facing east, July 16, 2014.

12 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
North interior wall of the lookout building storage area, camera facing north, July 16, 2014.

13 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
North-east elevation of privy, camera facing south-west, July 16, 2014.

14 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
South-southwest elevation of lookout building and trail, camera facing north-northeast, July 16, 2014.

15 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
North elevation of helipad, camera facing south, July 16, 2014.

16 of 16. ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0005
North elevation of helipad, camera facing southwest, July 1963.
Photographer: Dr. Phil Krueger

Property Owner:
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name
Salmon-Challis National Forest
street & number
1206 S. Chaliss Street
Telephone
208-756-5100
city or town
Salmon
state
ID
zip code
83467

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 18 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.
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing NE – the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 80 cab
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho  State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing NE – the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 80 cab
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing NE – the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 80 cab

ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0003
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing SE – the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 80 cab
Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho, State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing NW – the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 80 cab
Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing NE – the Butts Creek Point R-4 80 cab – close up of copper lightning grounding system and shutter hinge
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0009

Facing NW – the Butts Creek Point R-4 80 cab – interior
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property                   County and State

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho   State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0010

Facing S - the Butts Creek Point R-4 80 cab – interior
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing W - the Butts Creek Point R-4 80 cab – foundation and storage area
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing N - the Butts Creek Point R-4 80 cab – storage area interior
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing SW – the Butts Creek Point R-4 Plan 70 privy
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

Facing N–NE – the trail from the privy to the lookout cab
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Luke Channer
Date Photographed: July 16, 2014

ID_Idaho County_Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout_0015

Facing S–SW – the 10’ X 10’ helipad in the foreground and the Butts Creek Point R-4 80 cab in the background
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Name of Property: Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Salmon
County: Idaho
State: ID
Photographer: Dr. Philip Krueger
Date Photographed: July 1963

Facing SW – a Bell B-47 helicopter perched on the Butts Point Lookout helipad during the summer of 1963
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout – Google Earth
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout

Idaho County, Idaho

Name of Property

County and State

MAP NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Idaho County, Idaho

Name of Property                   County and State
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Idaho County, Idaho
Name of Property
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018
(Expires 5/31/2012)
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property
Idaho County, Idaho
County and State
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900

(Expires 5/31/2012)
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Idaho County, Idaho

Name of Property

The form was left in the mailbox to be picked up by the postman or carrier. As you were passing the house, you noticed a sign on the mailbox that read, "Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout." You were curious about the history of the lookout and decided to research it further.

The Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout is a historic fire lookout located in Idaho County, Idaho. It was built in 1934 as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program. The CCC was a federal work relief program established during the Great Depression to provide jobs for young men. The purpose of the Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout was to serve as a fire lookout for the Idaho Forest Fire Protection District. It was staffed by fire lookout officers who monitored the area for signs of forest fires and reported any incidents to the district headquarters.

The Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout is a small, two-story structure built of logs. It has a gabled roof and a chimney. The lookout is situated on a hillside with a panoramic view of the surrounding forest. The location of the lookout was chosen to provide an ideal vantage point for spotting fires in the area. The lookout is still in use today and is actively staffed by members of the Idaho Forest Fire Protection District.

The Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout is an important part of the history of the area and serves as a reminder of the role that the CCC played in building public works projects in the United States during the 1930s.
Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900     OMB No. 1024-0018     (Expires 5/31/2012)

Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout
Idaho County, Idaho

Name of Property

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