

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

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 Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
other names/site number Mica Mountain Fire Lookout, 10AM270 (SITS), PY-616 (agency)

2. Location

street & number National Forest Road 243, 12 miles SE of Council, Idaho, Payette National Forest

N/A	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town Council
state Idaho code ID county Adams code 003 zip code 83612

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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

RICHA WILSON Digitally signed by RICHA WILSON
Date: 2022.08.25 15:10:06 -06'00'

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

[Signature] _____ 8-26-22 _____
Signature of commenting official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer _____ Idaho State Historical Society _____
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
 Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
 County and State

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

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

GOVERNMENT: Fire Lookout

Current Functions

GOVERNMENT: Fire Lookout

7. Description

Architectural Classification

NO STYLE

Materials

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: WOOD: Shingle

other: GLASS

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout, designed by the United States Forest Service and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933, is a two-story 14'-6" x 14'-6" building that consists of a storage room that elevates the 14'-6" x 14'-6" cab above. The lookout is clad with drop (shiplap) siding and has a pyramidal, wood-shingled roof and 19 multi-paned wood windows. The cab, which retains many original interior features, is accessed by wood stairs and a catwalk on the exterior. The most significant of the interior features is the original alidade, also known as a firefinder. The lookout was built following a modified Forest Service plan which allowed for pre-cut and prefabricated building components to be transported, often by mule train, to remote sites. Within the boundary there are two contributing buildings: a 1933 fire lookout and a 1928 pit latrine (relocated from the Bear Guard Station on the Payette National Forest in 1999) and currently used as a storage shed. The current pit latrine, built in 1997, is classified as a non-contributing building. Landscape features within the National Register boundary that lack substantial size and scale to be officially counted are remnants of telephone poles associated with the old crank telephone system, a severed wooden flagpole, an interpretive sign, and a USGS benchmark. Other related structures, 100 yards due north and all outside the National Register boundary, include a modern communications equipment building, radio tower, and solar panel.

Narrative Description

Located at the end of National Forest Road 243 on an unaltered landscape, the lookout is part of the Council Ranger District of the Payette National Forest. It is strategically positioned on the basalt ridge of Indian Mountain at 7,255 feet above sea level, which provides the necessary 360-degree vistas of the northern Weiser River Valley and the West Mountains. This very treeless site has native vegetation of sagebrush, grasses, and wildflowers. In 1933, Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees constructed the two-story Indian Mountain Fire Lookout of sawn lumber that was pre-cut and transported to the remote site. The building, painted white, is clad with drop siding—shiplap siding with a cove profile that is designated in a 1935 Forest Service building handbook as "Rustic 105" siding. The corner boards and door trim are plain 1x4 boards. An external wood stairway with open risers is secured to the substructure's south façade. It leads from a concrete stoop on the ground to the "catwalk," a three-foot wide deck that surrounds the cab. The catwalk provides access to the lookout cab and serves as exterior observation space. The stairway's handrail and the catwalk's guardrail are simple with dimensional lumber forming the support posts, rails, and cross bracing. A wood sign secured to the catwalk's west side reads "Indian Mtn. L.O. 1933."

Invoices filed at the Payette National Forest Headquarters for materials used in building the Indian Mountain Fire Lookout are dated Fiscal Year (FY) 1934 (\$848.81) and FY 1935 (\$38.26). The Federal fiscal year in 1934 was July 1, 1933 - June 30, 1934. Travel to and from and working at the site would have been difficult during the winter and early spring months. This points to a construction date of 1933.

The building has an above-ground, one-room substructure that sits on a foundation of timber sills supported by poured concrete piers and basalt bedrock. It serves as a storage area and supports the lookout cab above. The south façade has a 4-pane wood hopper window, placed off center, that is protected with welded wire mesh added at an unknown date. An off-center, 5-panel wood door on the west provides access to the storage room's interior, which has an unfinished concrete floor. Painted plywood, likely an addition, covers the walls and ceiling. A plywood base cabinet with a plastic laminate countertop and a refrigerator are not original but they do not detract from the room's historic character.

The cab is a standard design designated as R4 Plan 80 by the Forest Service's Intermountain Region. It has five large 9-pane wood windows (sliding and fixed) on three sides. The south side has four 9-pane wood windows and a 6-pane, 1-panel wood door. The screen door is probably a replacement, and the date of installation is unknown. All glass panes measured 10" x 16" and the plan required the glass to be "Grade A Double-Strength." Wood siding covers the exterior walls below the windows. Each elevation has two large shutters constructed of boards and hinged to the top of the windows. The shutters provide protection from the harsh weather during winters and, in the summers when opened, serve to reduce glare for the lookout person inside. The cab and shutters are painted white while the window sash and door are painted green. These colors represent an Intermountain Region standard color scheme adopted in 1933.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout

Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho

County and State

The lookout's pyramidal hip roof has wood shingles installed in 1993 to match the original materials. They are unstained; the original roof likely was stained green to conform to the Intermountain Region's standard paint scheme. The metal stove flue protruding through the roof is not original, but is similar to the original metal flue. The original lightning protection system (lightning harness) includes a rod on the roof's peak, grounding cables that extend down the four corners of the roof and connects to a metal chain connected to the exterior walls and to the ground. In 2017, the Forest Service determined the exterior stairs, catwalk, and railings had deteriorated to the point that they were becoming unsafe. A project was proposed and implemented to replace stringers and stair treads with comparable wood while maintaining the current slope. The catwalk deck was also replaced with planks of similar wood. In order to meet current building codes, the wooden catwalk railings rise from the original 28 inches to 34-38 inches. The railings were also replaced with comparable lumber. For additional safety, 4" wire mesh was installed on the railings and the wooden handrail of the stairs.

The cab's interior retains its character-defining features. The most significant is the original alidade, also known as a firefinder. By triangulating a cross shot on a smoke with other lookouts, the alidade is the primary instrument used to accurately locate and properly record the locations of fires. The alidade is mounted on a built-in plywood stand in the cab's center. An attic access panel punctuates the ceiling, which is made of tongue-and-groove pine boards with a V-groove profile and a varnished finish. A wood panel mounted to the ceiling swings downward on hinges for easy storage and viewing of maps. Other furnishings include a wood-burning stove made of cast iron, which is not the original, a wooden box for storing firewood, a desk, a small dresser, a single bed with a trundle, and a propane cooking range. A chair with glass insulators at the bottom of its legs protects the lookout person from lightning. Despite the addition of vinyl flooring, wood wall paneling below the large windows, and plywood cabinets with a plastic laminate countertop and a stainless-steel sink, the interior retains historic integrity. Electric two-way radios replaced the original (1935) crank telephone, that connected to the Weiser and Payette National Forests' telephone systems via the former Mill Creek Ranger Station, east over the West Mountains to Long Valley and the town of Cascade, Idaho.

The old latrine, currently used as a storage shed, is a historic and contributing outbuilding. It was constructed in 1928 at the Bear Guard Station from a standard Forest Service plan that the Intermountain Region adopted in 1933 as R4 Plan 70. The latrine is located 30 yards SW of the lookout and was moved to the Indian Mountain Fire Lookout site in 1999 after the original Plan 70 latrine burned down two years earlier. Moving latrines is a historically common practice of the Forest Service as they were constructed to be mobile and frequently moved around within an administrative site or to other locations. The contributing wood frame outbuilding measures 3'-4" wide x 4'-1" deep x 8'-4" tall at the peak. It has pier block anchors, original wood novelty siding with a waterfall profile, a wood shingle front-gabled roof, and the original 5-panel wood door. Other features include plain corner boards, small round vent holes on the side and rear elevations, screened gable ends, and exposed rafter tails. It is painted white following the Forest Service scheme for the location. The interior bench seat has been removed and a lightning protection has been installed.

The modern latrine was constructed in 1997 and is classified as a noncontributing outbuilding. It measures 4'-8" wide x 4'-10" deep and approximately 8' tall with a large round vent pipe on its rear elevation. All indications suggest it was a standard plywood-clad Forest Service Sweet-Smelling Toilet (SST). In 2015, the latrine was covered in metal siding and a standing seam metal roof. It sits on a concrete slab inscribed with the date of 8-13-97. The slab was reinforced with bentonite, also in 2015.

There were approximately 8,000 fire lookouts in the United States at their peak in the 1930s, of which about 1,000 were in Idaho, more than any other state. Today, less than 150 lookouts are still standing in Idaho, with about 50 still in use. About a dozen have been restored for use as recreational sites.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout, located on an unaltered site, has strong integrity of setting, location, and feeling from the historic period. Despite some modifications, it maintains historic integrity of design and materials. It retains original or in-kind replacement of character-defining features including the catwalk, windows, shutters, siding, roofing, and interior items such as the original alidade, the primary instrument used to locate and properly record the locations of fires. The replacement of the catwalk, stairs, and railings was designed and constructed to protect the historic integrity of the building as well as the safety of the rangers and lookouts.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1933-1972

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

USDA Forest Service

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the lookout's construction in 1933 and ends in 1972. This period allows 50 years to pass to be able to evaluate the lookout's significance as a historic place for listing in the National Register. Staffed fire lookout activities continued here until 2015. Although now automated and unstaffed, the Forest Service continues to use the lookout site for its original purpose of fire detection and to meet the agency's conservation mission.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout is nominated at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the historic management of public lands by the Federal Government in the arena of wildland fire prevention for the conservation of forest products and the protection of watersheds. It is also important for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal (Federal) social program created to address the economic crisis and severe unemployment during The Great Depression. The lookout is also nominated under Criterion C as an excellent example of a building type that evolved for the specific purpose of fire detection. The lookout is the finest and most intact example of a historic, wood-framed lookout remaining on the Payette National Forest. The areas of significance are Conservation, Politics/Government, and Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1933 with its construction and ends in 1972.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Conservation: Firefighting as a Management Strategy

The use of fire lookouts began in the northwestern United States during the late nineteenth century when timber companies started utilizing lookouts 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. Recognizing the need to manage and protect public lands, Congress established the Forest Service under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the nation's benefit. The agency was driven by a mission to conserve and manage resources for public use and sought to protect timber and watersheds through fire suppression. The Forest Service began using fire lookouts in the early twentieth century. These early lookout facilities were known as "rag camps" and generally consisted of a wooden tent platform and a stand for the firefinder. Indian Mountain has been continually used by the Forest Service as a lookout point since 1910, with the first permanent structure built on the site in 1922. (See Figure 4)

Early Forest Service efforts to protect public lands and waters from wildfire were inefficient due to lack of manpower and resources. It wasn't until after the horrific fire season of 1910, when 85 people were killed and 3 million acres burned in Idaho and Montana, that more resources were allocated. In response to the tragic loss of life, property, and forest resources, the Forest Service received national support and significant Congressional appropriations beginning with the 1911 Weeks Act, a federal law (36 Stat. 961). The act authorized the USDA to purchase lands for National Forests and helped restore more than 24 million acres around the country. The law also provided a cooperative agreement between the Forest Service, the states, and private landowners to fight forest fires. The act allowed the agency to construct a substantial network of infrastructure—roads, trails, telephone lines, and buildings—to support the work of fire guards, lookouts, smokechasers, and firefighters.

The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout is a key component of the Forest Service fire detection system on the Payette National Forest in southwest Idaho. It represents the Forest Service's historic policy of early fire detection and suppression, an important component of the agency's public lands management strategy of the early twentieth century. The historic lookout and unaltered landscape present a high integrity setting that helps illustrate the lookout's role in wildland fire management on the Payette National Forest. It is nominated, therefore, under Criterion A with Conservation as the area of significance.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout

Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho

County and State

Politics/Government: The Civilian Conservation Corps

The decade-long Great Depression, which began in 1929, had a profound effect on the nation and on the Forest Service. Environmental degradation and severe drought coupled with economic crisis and very high unemployment caused much pain and suffering throughout the country. The Great Depression also served to emphasize past generations of unchecked land exploitation: over-grazed lands, cut and devastated forestlands, exhausted soil, erosion, and dust storms due to poor agricultural and logging practices. In one effort to combat the economic hardships of the Great Depression, Congress called for an investigation. This resulted in the 1933 Copeland Report titled *A National Plan for Forestry*, which described and evaluated all aspects of forestry from timber, water, range and wildlife to recreation and fire protection. The report called for the Forest Service to evaluate the timber supply and to actively manage/conservate the forests for more commercial and recreational use. This had a profound effect on management of America's forests.

In response to the Copeland Report, Congress enacted the Emergency Conservation Work Act, one of many emergency relief measures enacted in 1933. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt then created numerous government programs including several directly targeted toward conservation. President Roosevelt issued Executive Order #6101, establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a New Deal program employing young men on public works projects including many on national forests. The CCC in Idaho functioned from 1933 to 1942.

The major growth in Forest Service fire lookout construction occurred between 1933 and 1942, a period that coincides with one of our nation's most prolific conservation movements. Apart from California, Idaho had the most CCC camps west of the Mississippi. Idaho was second in the nation in CCC expenditures, and 40% of the Idaho camps worked on Forest Service projects. A CCC camp near Council, Idaho, established in April of 1933, was one of four camps on the Weiser National Forest (now part of the Payette National Forest). The enrollees, who were mostly from New York and New Jersey, constructed 300 miles of trail, laid 80 miles of telephone line, and erected the Council Ranger Station, the Mill Creek Guard Station, Hornet Creek Ranger Station, and the Indian Mountain Fire Lookout. In the end, the program was responsible for building a massive infrastructure of roads, trails, ranger stations, fire lookouts, communication systems, and rehabilitating hundreds of thousands of acres of forested lands. Funding and labor from New Deal programs allowed the Forest Service to expand its fire detection network on the Payette National Forest by constructing additional (and much needed) fire lookouts, including the Indian Mountain Fire Lookout. These lookouts proved to be a highly important component of the Forest Service's ability to protect timber and other forest resources from fire in accordance with the agency conservation mission.

The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout is important for its association with the CCC, a New Deal program that played a significant role in the nation's recovery from the Great Depression as well as the Forest Service's maturation as a conservation agency. For this reason, it is nominated under Criterion A with Politics/Government as an area of significance.

Architecture: Fire Lookouts as a Building Typology

The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout is nominated under Criterion C as an excellent example of a building type that evolved for the specific purpose of fire detection. The lookout was staffed and in continuous use by the Forest Service from its construction in 1933 to 2015. It has strong integrity from the historic period, having seen in-kind replacement of the roof shingles, catwalk decking, and railings, with minimal alterations. It retains the distinctive characteristics of a building typology that evolved for one purpose: the detection of wildland fires. Every feature reflected a response to the purpose for which it was built. The size, configuration, and pier foundations demonstrate the need to transport, often by pack train, building materials to remote locations. Windows and a catwalk on all sides of a one-room cab allow a 360-degree view of the surrounding terrain while the central original alidade aids in accurately locating and recording fires. Large shutters reduce glare when open and protect the windows when closed. The original lightning protection system is critical in protecting the building and its lookouts from lightning strikes. The substructure allowed elevation of the cab for a higher vantage point and provides supply storage for staff, often isolated for weeks at a time. The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout retains its historic integrity of design, materials, and workmanship and is nominated under Criterion C with Architecture as an area of significance.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout

Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho

County and State

During the post-1910 era the agency began to build permanent structures to protect lookout personnel from inclement weather, including dangerous lightning storms, throughout the fire season. These structures allowed lookouts to have a twenty-four-hour watch over the forest. The initial buildings were primarily constructed of native materials found near the site and varied in architectural style and design. District Forester Coert DuBois developed a fire plan in 1911 that included a network of lookout points on mountaintops. He expanded his plan in a 1914 document titled, "Systematic Fire Protection in the California Forests," which became a seminal work on fire control for all regions of the Forest Service. Following these national trends, the Forest Service placed lookout men on mountain peaks on the Weiser National Forest (now part of the Payette National Forest) to spot fires in remote and timbered areas. Initially, they camped in tents. Some lookout sites had platforms in trees to raise vantage points while others eventually received lookout structures that provided better shelter. 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 prefabricated buildings that could be efficiently pre-cut, bundled, packed-in, and then assembled on site.

The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout is a Forest Service R4 Plan 80 cab on a substructure. Across the nation, the agency experimented with several lookout designs in the 1910s and 1920s. In 1929, Region 1 (Northern Region) produced one of the most popular by modifying Region 5's (Pacific Southwest Region) Plan A-4 lookout cab plan. The altered design, which Region 1 adopted as their standard "Plan L-4," allowed building components to be transported more easily to remote sites. For example, the large, 1-pane windows of the Plan A-4 were replaced with 4-pane or 9-pane windows and the walls studs were shortened, thus lowering the ceiling. These, along with pre-cut lumber and other parts, could be bundled and hauled to the site by mule train. The Aladdin Company, maker of mail-order house kits from 1906 to 1987, manufactured many L-4 lookouts. The first models had gable roofs until 1933 when they were built with hip roofs. It is probable, but not confirmed, that Aladdin manufactured this specific lookout. Region 4 architect George L. Nichols adopted the 14' x 14' L-4 lookout cab but re-designated it as R4 Plan 80. (See attached architectural drawings) It proved to be the most popular lookout cab design in Region 4, not only for its larger size but for its versatility. It could be placed on a low foundation, a wooden tower, or a substructure that provided storage space or served as a garage.

One officer claimed the catwalk improved the appearance of a lookout, but former Challis National Forest Ranger Archie Murchie recalled another advantage: "We were building a lot of catwalks around the lookouts, because at certain times during the day the glare on the windows made it awful hard for the lookouts to see through them. So we built these catwalks so they could go outside, and we used four-foot planking. Charlie cut out all the lumber for the catwalks and the supports and the rails and everything. We bought a few thousand board feet – it didn't amount to an awful lot, but it was good, solid lumber, and most of it was practically free of knots, because he'd only use the lower part of the logs."

Merle G. Markle was the Fire Control Ranger at Valley Creek (Stanley) Ranger District on the Challis National Forest. An undated memo attributed to him provides dimensions for pre-cut lumber decking, stringers, and guard rails for catwalk construction. Since the maximum length was seven feet, he sketched a detail of spliced lumber secured with a bolt. Markle also advised, "Where round materials are available as on Basin Butte," only the decking would need to be packed in, thus indicating a reliance on readily available materials to construct the stair stringers and the railing.

The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout is the finest and most intact example of a historic, wood-framed lookout remaining on the Payette National Forest. It is an excellent example of a building type that evolved for the specific purpose of fire detection and was in continuous use during fire season by the Forest Service from its construction 1933 to 2015, when the site was automated. The lookout has strong integrity of setting, location, and feeling, and the interior retains its character-defining features, including the original alidade. Despite some necessary modifications, the Indian Mountain Fire Lookout maintains historic integrity of design and materials and is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The USDA Forest Service has staffed a lookout on Indian Mountain every fire season from 1910 until 2015. For the first dozen years, lookouts were sheltered in tents, often called "Rag Camps." It was not until 1922 that the first permanent lookout (no longer extant) was built. Bob Wilkinson was the first lookout stationed there. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps dismantled the old building and built a new and larger fire lookout (subject of this nomination) on the site. The lookout was connected with the Weiser National Forest telephone system and with the Payette network, via Mill Creek Ranger Station and Cascade, Idaho. Accessible only by horseback in the early years, the lookout was staffed by individuals like Erin Bobo in the late 1940s or married couples such as Andy and Inez Clelland (1940-1944). They were isolated for weeks at a time and the closest spring was 350 yards away. Although the Forest Service had utilized the site

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout

Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho

County and State

over the 45 previous years, it was not until 1956 that President Dwight D. Eisenhower reserved 60 acres from the Payette National Forest and designated it as the Indian Mountain Administrative Site. The lookouts, who on average would spot 2 to 3 wildfires per fire season, were stationed there all summer into early fall. They were considered the "Eyes of the Forest" and "Protectors of the Land." The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout has not been staffed since 2015 and is not likely to be staffed in the future. The Forest Service has installed a remote camera at the radio repeater tower 100 yards due north of the lookout and outside the NR boundary, to remotely detect and monitor any wildfires in the area.

Conclusion

Designed by the Forest Service and built by the CCC, the Indian Mountain Fire Lookout retains strong historic integrity. Situated on a remote and unaltered landscape, the lookout is an integral part of a fire detection system on the Payette National Forest. It is strategically positioned on the ridge of Indian Mountain at 7,255 feet above sea level, which provides 360-degree vistas. The lookout is a result of Forest Service policy to greatly increase the number of fire lookouts in the West. This coincides with the implementation of the New Deal programs (CCC) and one of our nation's most prolific conservation movements. During that period, the Forest Service received the manpower, the appropriations, and the mandate to better protect and conserve the nation's forest resources. The lookout is an excellent example of a building type that evolved for the specific purpose of fire detection and was built following a modified Forest Service plan. The Indian Mountain Fire Lookout has the highest integrity and is the most intact example of a historic, wood-framed lookout remaining on the Payette National Forest and is worthy of preservation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arnold, Mark

1982 *Council Ranger Station*, IMACS Inventory Form, SITS No. 10AM162, Agency No. PY-540, June 10, Payette National Forest, USDA Forest Service

Burnside, Kathryn,

2006 *George L. Nichols: Regional Architect, Region 4*, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service, Ogden, UT

Caywood, Janene, Theodore Catton, and James McDonald.

1991 *Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places*, USDA Forest Service

Conley, Cort

1982 *Idaho for the Curious: A Guide*, Backeddy Books, Cambridge, Idaho.

DuBois, Coert

1914 *Systematic Fire Protection in the California Forests*, USDA Forest Service, Government Printing Office, Washington DC

Fickes, C. P.

1935 *Region One Handbook, Construction and Maintenance of Forest Improvements*, USDA Forest Service

Forest Fire Lookout Association

2012 *Indian Mountain Fire Lookout* Registration Form, the National Historic Lookout Register, McCall, Idaho

Graves, Henry S.

1933 *A National Plan for American Forestry* (Copeland Report to Congress) Washington DC

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout

Adams County, Idaho

Name of Property

County and State

Hockaday, James

1968 *History of the Payette National Forest*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Intermountain Region, Forest Service.
Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho

Holm, Richard H., Jr

2009 *Points of Prominence: Fire Lookouts of the Payette National Forest*, Self-published.

2018 *Butts Creek Point Fire Lookout, Idaho Co., Idaho*. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
RS100002786, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Idaho Members of Poets and Writers Guild (IMPWG)

1967 *The Idaho Story, Volume I*, Ipas Publishing Co. Iona, Idaho

Idaho Public Television

2011 *Eyes of the Forest: Idaho's Fire Lookout Special*. First aired 2011/03/10, Accessed 2022/01/19
<https://www.pbs.org/video/outdoor-idaho-eyes-of-the-forest-idahos-fire-lookouts/>

Kresek, Ray

1998 *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, Historic Lookout Project. Spokane, Washington

Lewis, James G.

2018 *Lands Worth Saving: The Weeks Act of 1911, The National Forests, and The Enduring Value of Public Investment*, Forest History Society, Durham, North Carolina

Otis, Alison T., William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, and Kimberly K. Lakin

1986 *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps:1933-42*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service,
Report FS-395, prepared by Pacific Crest Research and Services Corporation, Corvallis, Oregon

Rees, John E.

1918 *Idaho: Chronology, Nomenclature Bibliography*, W.B. Conkey Company, Chicago, Reproduced in 1965 by the
Shorey Book Store, Seattle, Washington

Rutledge, R.H.

1935 *Building Construction Manual*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Region Four

Salmond, John A.

1967 *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933 –1942; A New Deal Case Study*, Duke University Press, Durham, NC

Shovers, Brian (GCM Services)

1991 *National Resources Management on the Salmon National Forest in Central Idaho, 1907-1940*, National Register
of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior,
National Park Service Prepared for the Salmon National Forest by GCM Services. Butte, Montana. On file at the
Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor's Office, Salmon, Idaho.

Snow, Elias B.

1963 *History of Indian Valley*, Idaho County Leader, Cascade, Idaho. On file Heritage Program, Payette National
Forest. USDA Forest Service

Spray, R. H.

1995 *Pacific Northwest Fire Lookout Architecture*, On file, Regional Architectural Historian's Office, Region 4 Regional
Office, USDA Forest Service

Sutherland, Robert

1965 *History and Development of the Council Ranger District*, Unpublished manuscript available at Payette National
Forest, McCall, Idaho, USDA Forest Service

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Throop, Gail

1986 *USDA Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

USDA Forest Service

1933 *United States Forest Service Standardized Building Plans*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Engineering, Ogden, Utah

USDA Forest Service

1934 *Investment and Depreciation Records*, available from Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho, USDA Forest Service

USDA Forest Service

1935 *Forest Improvement Plans*, Legend & A-N, Forest Service Region 4. Document on file at Forest Headquarters, Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho.

Wilson, Richa

2004 *"Within A Day's Ride": Forest Service Administrative Sites in Region 4, 1891-1960*, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Ogden, Utah

2011 *"Like Palaces To Us": Administrative Facilities of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, 1905-1960.*" USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Ogden, Utah

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: National Historic Lookout Register

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.1 acres

UTM References

1	<u>11</u> Zone	<u>559587</u> Easting	<u>4938602</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is a square area measuring 300' x 300' that includes the lookout and two related buildings. The boundary is 150 ft (north and south) and 150 ft (east and west) from the center point of the lookout. See accompanying site plan.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the area historically associated the lookout site, which includes the lookout and related outbuildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lawrence A. Kingsbury, Forest Service Archaeologist (retired); Edson Beall, Architectural Historian, Forest Service ACES

organization USDA Forest Service, Payette National Forest date April 29, 2022

street & number 500 Mission St. Bldg. 2 telephone 208-634-0750

city or town McCall state Idaho zip code 83638

e-mail morgan.zedalis@usda.gov

Property Owner:

name USDA Forest Service, Payette National Forest

street & number 500 Mission St. Bldg. 2 telephone 208-634-0750

city or town McCall state Idaho zip code 83638

Additional Documentation

Figure 1: USGS Location Map
Figure 2: Site Plan
Figure 3: R4 Plan 80 Architectural Plans (Cab)
Figure 4: First permanent lookout building (not extant), facing northwest; 1923 by unknown photographer
Figure 5: Indian Mountain Fire Lookout, 1956

Photographs

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
City or Vicinity: Council
County: Adams
State: Idaho

Name of Photographers: Richa Wilson, SamuelThompson,
Molly Eimers, Gayle Dixon

Date of Photographs: Unless otherwise noted all photos by:
Richa Wilson, 2020/08/24
Samuel Thompson, 2019/09/23
Molly Eimers, 2019/07/09
Gayle Dixon, 2013/10/21

Location of Original Digital Files: 500 N. Mission St., Bldg. #2, McCall, ID 83638

Note: The latest photographs available for this site were shot July 24, 2020. The lookout is not accessible during winter and spring months. No restorations or maintenance has occurred at the lookout since the summer 2019.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

- Photo #1 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0001)
Lookout building. Facing northeast at the south and west elevations. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #2 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0002)
Lookout building. Facing north at south elevation. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #3 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0003)
Lookout building. Facing northwest at the south and east elevations. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #4 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0004)
Lookout building. Facing east at west elevation. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #5 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0005)
Lookout building. Facing southeast at west and north elevations. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #6 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0006)
Lookout building. Facing southwest at north and east elevations. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #7 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0007)
Lookout building. Facing west at east elevation. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #8 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0008)
Historic outhouse. Facing west at east elevation. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #9 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0009)
Historic outhouse. Facing northwest at east and south elevations. Lookout in background. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #10 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0010)
Historic outhouse. Facing southeast at west and north elevations. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #11 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0011)
Historic outhouse. Facing south at north elevation. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #12 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0012)
Historic outhouse. Interior. Facing west at east elevation. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #13 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0013)
Modern latrine. Facing southwest at north and east elevations. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #14 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0014)
Modern latrine. Facing northeast at west and south elevations. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #15 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0015)
Modern latrine. Concrete slab inscribed 8-13-97 LB. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #16 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0016)
Historic outhouse and modern latrine. Facing northwest. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #17 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0017)
Historic outhouse and lookout. Facing northwest. By Richa Wilson
- Photo #18 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0018)
Lookout building. East facade. Facing north. By Molly Eimers

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #19 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0019)
Rebuilt concrete step landing and steps leading to storage room. Facing northwest. By Richa Wilson

Photo #20 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0020)
Historic Lookout. Window, one room substructure (storage) Facing north. South elevation. By Richa Wilson

Photo #21 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0021)
Historic Lookout. Door to one room substructure (storage) Facing west. East elevation. By Richa Wilson

Photo #22 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0022)
Stairs (restored 2019) to catwalk and lookout cab. Southwest corner. Facing northeast. By Richa Wilson

Photo #23 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0023)
Catwalk underside (planks replaced in 2019) North elevation. Facing west. By Richa Wilson

Photo #24 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0024)
Catwalk, railing (restored in 2019), lightning harness. East elevation. Facing south. By Richa Wilson

Photo #25 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0025)
Lightning harness (detail). Northeast corner. Facing southwest. By Richa Wilson

Photo #26 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0026)
Lightning harness and facade detail. East elevation. Facing north northwest. By Richa Wilson

Photo #27 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0027)
Lookout cab interior. Facing east. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #28 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0028)
Lookout cab interior with alidade. Facing northeast. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #29 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0029)
Lookout cab interior. Facing north. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #30 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0030)
Lookout cab interior. Kitchen sink, counter and cabinets. Facing northeast. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #31 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0031)
Lookout cab interior. Bunk. Facing northwest. By Gayle Dixon

Photo #32 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0032)
Lookout cab interior. Alidade and entrance door. Facing southwest. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #33 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0033)
Lookout cab interior. Window and shutter detail. Facing west. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #34 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0034)
Lookout cab interior. Ceiling and hatch. Facing southeast. By Gayle Dixon

Photo #35 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0035)
Lookout cab interior. Alidade detail. Facing northeast. By Gayle Dixon

Photo #36 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0036)
Lookout storage room interior showing original support beam. Facing northeast. By Richa Wilson

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #37 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0037)
Lookout storage room interior. Facing west. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #38 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0038)
Lookout storage room interior. South wall with window. Facing south. By Richa Wilson

Photo #39 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0039)
Lookout storage room interior. Facing southwest. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #40 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0040)
Lookout storage room interior. Facing southeast. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #41 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0041)
Lookout storage room interior. Framing detail. Facing west. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #42 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0042)
Lookout storage room interior. Window detail. Facing southeast. By Richa Wilson

Photo #43 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0043)
Interpretative sign. Facing east. By Richa Wilson

Photo #44 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0044)
Flagpole remnant. Facing southeast. By Richa Wilson

Photo #45 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0045)
Viewshed from lookout catwalk. Facing northwest. By Richa Wilson

Photo #46 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0046)
Viewshed from lookout catwalk. Facing northwest. By Richa Wilson

Photo #47 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0047)
Modern Communications Facility (outside NR boundary) facing north. By Samuel Thompson

Photo #48 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0048)
Lookout building. Before railing and stair restoration. Facing northwest. By Samuel Thompson in 2015

Photo #49 (ID_AdamsCounty_IndianMtnLookout_0049)
Lookout building. Before railing and stair restoration. Facing northeast. By Gayle Dixon

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.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

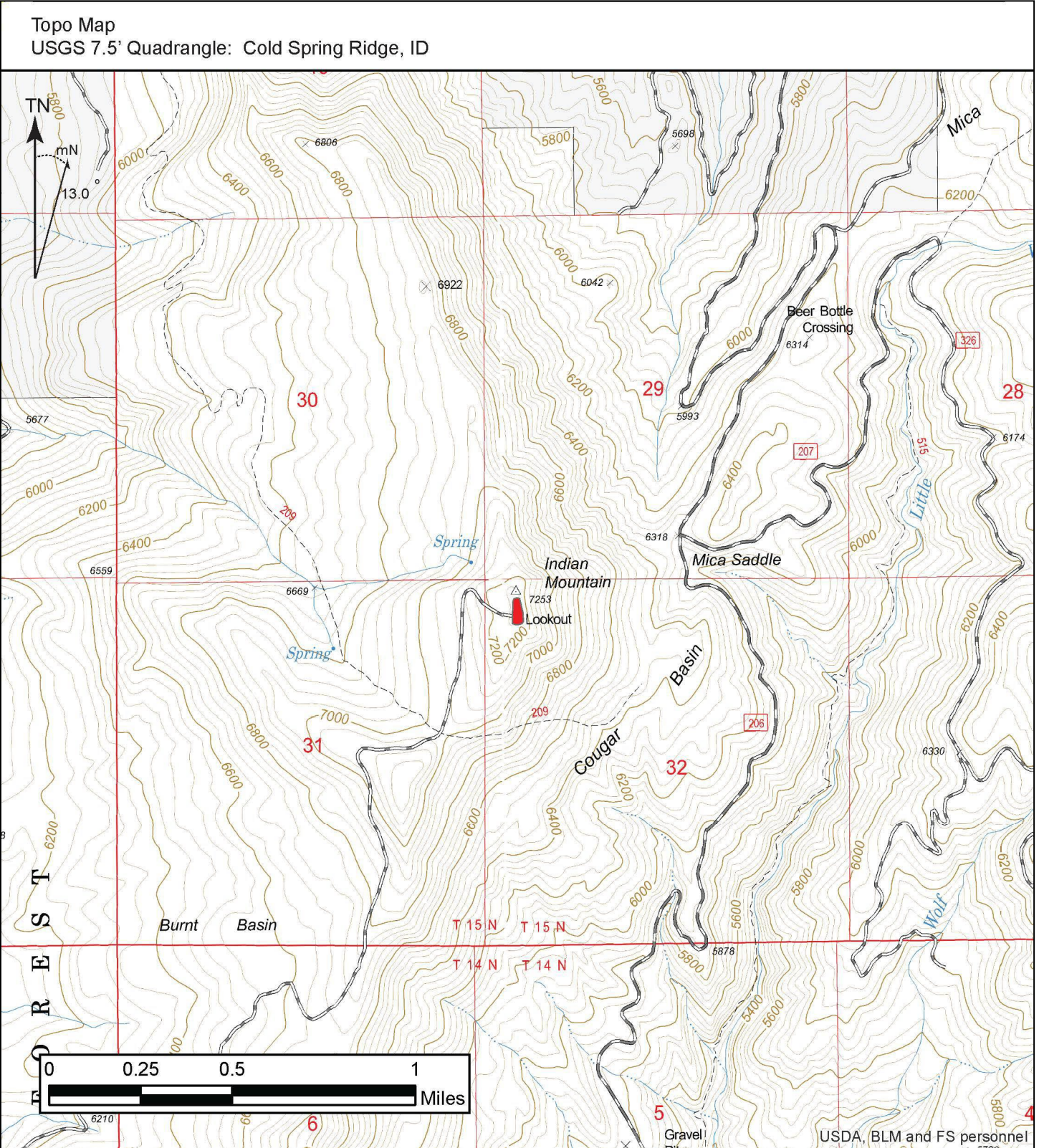


Figure 1. USGS Location Map

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

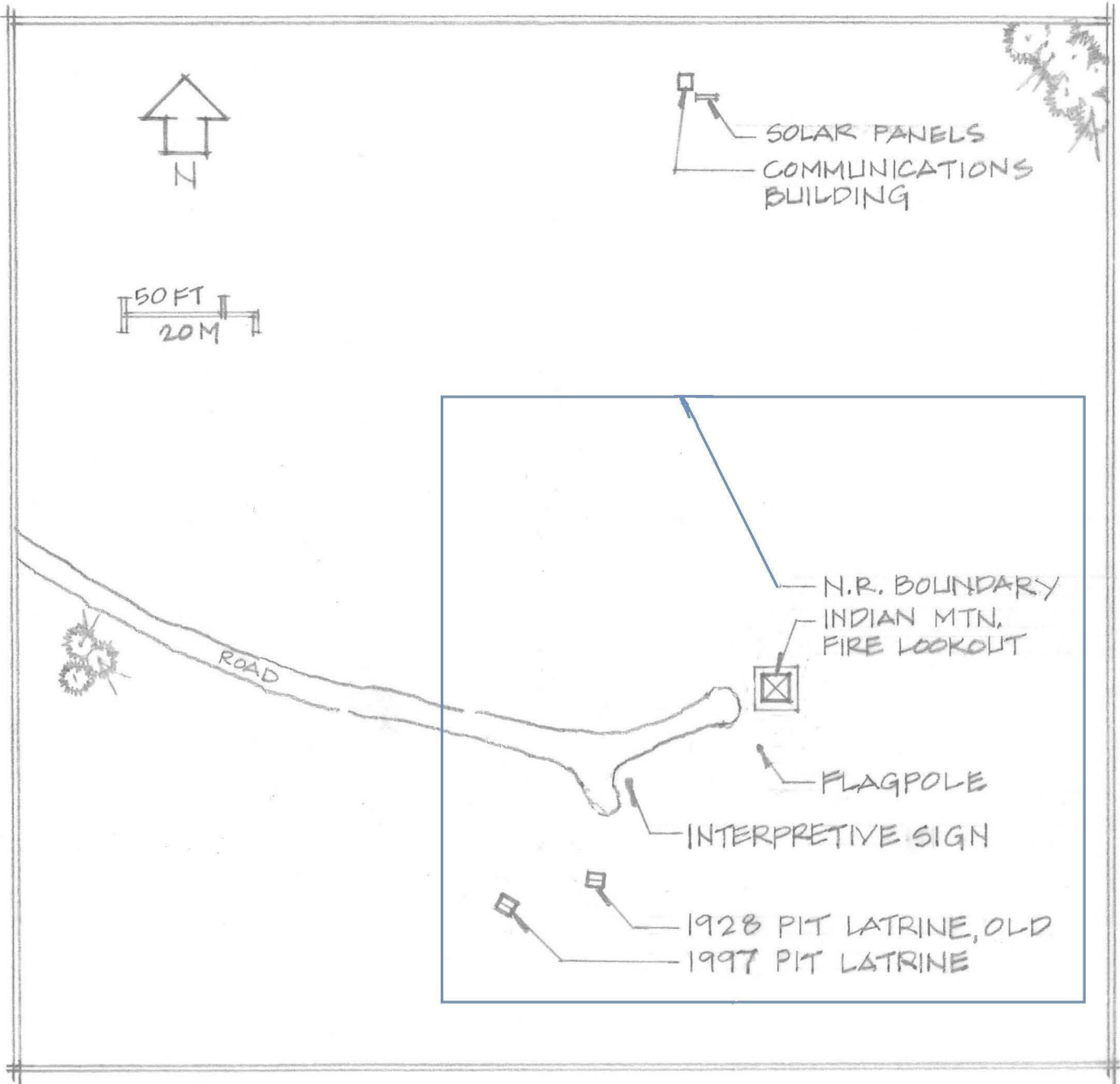


Figure 2. Site Plan

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
 Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
 County and State

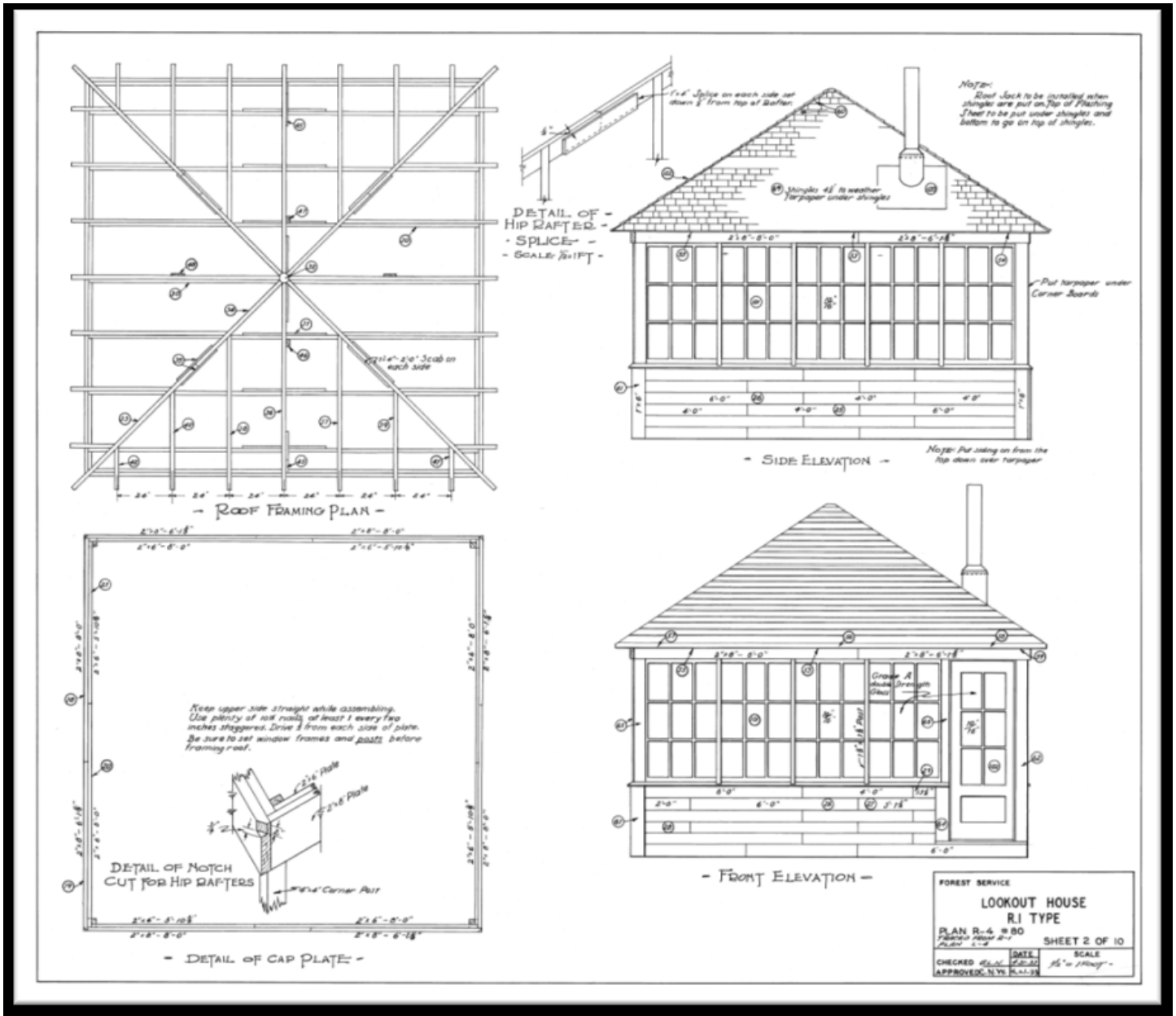


Figure 3. R4 Plan 80 Architectural Plans (cab)

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Figure 4. First permanent lookout building (not extant), facing northwest; 1923 by unknown photographer.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Figure 5. Indian Mountain Fire Lookout, 1956 by unknown photographer.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #1. Lookout building. Facing northeast at the south and west elevations.



Photo #2. Lookout building. Facing north at south elevation.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #3. Lookout building. Facing northwest at the south and east elevations



Photo #4. Lookout building. Facing east at west elevation.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #5. Lookout building. Facing southeast at west and north elevations.



Photo #6. Lookout building. Facing southwest at north and east elevations.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #7. Lookout building. Facing west at east elevation.



Photo #8. Historic outhouse. Facing west at east elevation.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #9. Historic outhouse. Facing northwest at east and south elevations. Lookout in background.



Photo #10. Historic outhouse. Facing southeast at west and north elevations.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State



Photo #11. Historic outhouse. Facing south at north elevation.



Photo #12. Historic outhouse. Interior. Facing west at east elevation.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State



Photo #13. Modern latrine. Facing southwest at north and east elevations.



Photo #14. Modern latrine. Facing northeast at west and south elevations.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #15. Modern latrine. Concrete slab inscribed 8-13-97 LB.



Photo #16. Historic outhouse and modern latrine. Facing northwest.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #17. Historic outhouse and lookout. Facing northwest.



Photo #18. Lookout building. East facade. Facing north.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #19. Rebuilt concrete step landing and steps leading to storage room. Facing northwest.



Photo #20. Historic Lookout. Window, one room substructure (storage) Facing north. South elevation.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State



Photo #21. Historic Lookout. Door to one room substructure (storage) Facing west. East elevation.



Photo #22. Stairs (restored 2019) to catwalk and lookout cab. Southwest corner. Facing northeast.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State



Photo #23. Catwalk underside (planks replaced in 2019) North elevation. Facing west.



Photo #24. Catwalk, railing (restored in 2019), lightning harness. East elevation. Facing south

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #25. Lightning harness (detail). Northeast corner. Facing southwest.



Photo #26. Lightning harness and facade detail. East elevation. Facing north northwest.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #27. Lookout cab interior. Facing east.



Photo #28. Lookout cab interior with alidade. Facing northeast.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #29. Lookout cab interior. Facing north.



Photo #30. Lookout cab interior. Kitchen sink, counter and cabinets. Facing northeast.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #31. Lookout cab interior. Bunk. Facing northwest.



Photo #32. Lookout cab interior. Alidade and entrance door. Facing southwest.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #33. Lookout cab interior. Window and shutter detail. Facing west.



Photo #34. Lookout cab interior. Ceiling and hatch. Facing southeast.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State



Photo #35. Lookout cab interior. Alidade detail. Facing northeast.



Photo #36. Lookout storage room interior showing original support beam. Facing northeast.

Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #37. Lookout storage room interior. Facing west.



Photo #38. Lookout storage room interior. South wall with window. Facing south.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #39. Lookout storage room interior. Facing southwest.



Photo #40. Lookout storage room interior. Facing southeast.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #41. Lookout storage room interior. Framing detail. Facing west.



Photo #42. Lookout storage room interior. Window detail. Facing southeast.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #43. Interpretative sign. Facing east.

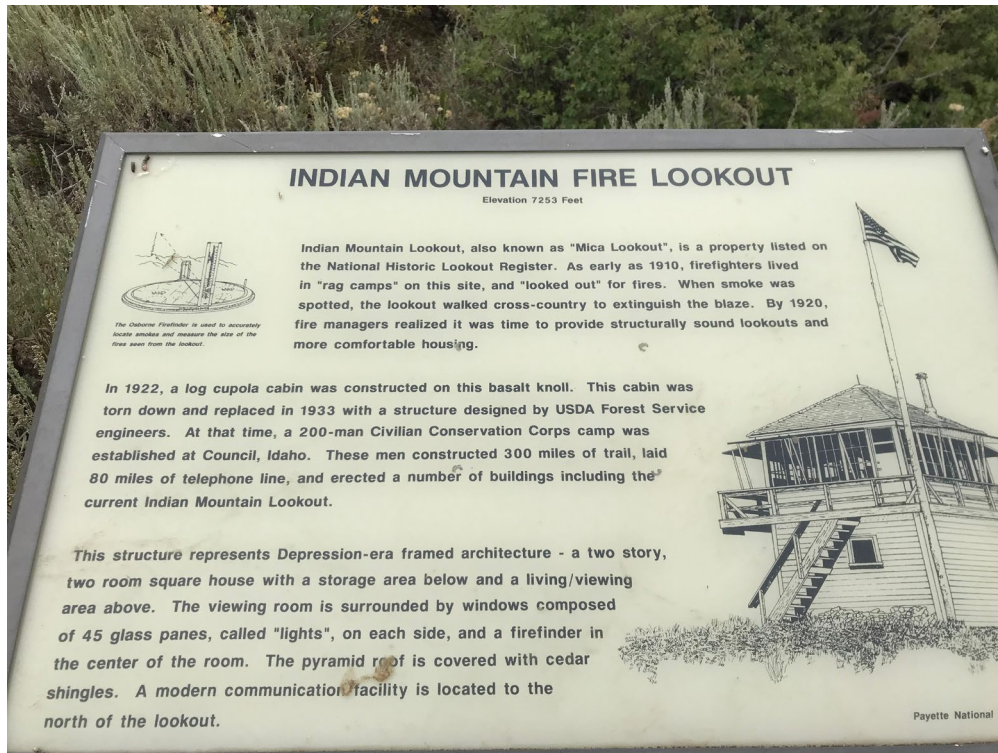


Photo #44. Flagpole remnant. Facing southeast.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #45. Viewshed from lookout catwalk. Facing northwest.



Photo #46. Viewshed from lookout catwalk. Facing northwest.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #47. Modern Communications Facility (outside NR boundary) facing north.



Photo #48. Lookout building. Before railing and stair restoration. Facing northwest.



Indian Mountain Fire Lookout
Name of Property

Adams County, Idaho
County and State

Photo #49. Lookout building. Before railing and stair restoration. Facing northeast.

