

Things to Think About

Road engineers call the last quarter mile of the road to the lookout “low standard.” In other words, it’s not meant for large RVs, vehicles with low ground clearance or long trailers.

You can travel the road safely in a “conventional” vehicle at low speed and with caution. Better, of course, is a vehicle with high clearance, like a pickup truck.

Please climb and descend the stairs like you would a ladder — facing the steps and holding the railings. The catwalk and stairway can become very slippery during wet weather.

No more than four people should occupy the lookout at one time. Visitors with small children and pets should be aware of the dangers that exist on towers of this height.

It is safer to stay in the cabin during lightning activity and high winds. The tower and cabin are well grounded, possessing adequate lightning protection.

You can hoist your supplies to the lookout on a rope-and-pulley that lifts a maximum of 40 pounds per load. Make sure your containers have strong handles.



Items Provided

- Propane stove and oven with fuel
- One double and one twin bed
- Pulley-and-rope to hoist supplies
- Table and chairs
- Broom, bucket and mop
- Pit toilet

Items to Bring

- Ice chest, food, drinking water
- Dishes, pots, pans, utensils
- Sleeping bags or bedding
- Warm clothing and rain gear
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Binoculars, camera, first aid kit, matches
- Insect repellent, sun screen, toilet articles
- Lookout and gate combination (available at the district office)
- Reservation receipt

For Information

MOOSE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

Fenn Ranger Station
831 Selway Road
Kooskia, ID 83539
PH 208-926-4258
FAX 208-926-8925
TDD 208-926-7725

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Forest
Service



United
States
Department
of
Agriculture

Moose Creek District
Nez Perce National Forest

FOR RENT: LOOKOUT BUTTE



At the height of the lookout era there were 966 lookouts in Idaho and 201 of those towers were in Idaho County.

www.recreation.gov
1-877-444-6777

Welcome to Lookout Butte

Do you need a place to relax and get away from it all? A destination with the promise of solitude and a taste of the mountain air as well? Then Lookout Butte may be the solution for you.

This fire tower offers the perfect setting for enjoying the country's tranquility and natural beauty.

Take a hike through the second growth forest, do some bird watching, ride your mountain bike or enjoy the panoramic view from atop the 60' tower.



Nighttime offers you the chance to see the landscape bathed in moonlight or stargaze without nearby light pollution. The ultimate thrill for a lucky few is a lightning storm passing directly overhead!

Lookout Butte has a history that spans nearly 80 years and has been the home to three lookout towers. The first built in 1923 was 45' tall with just a platform to stand on. Two years later in 1925 a cabin was built on the ground and about the same time a cabin was put on the tower. In 1935 a 50' tower was constructed. The cabin (on the ground) was burned in the 1950's. In 1962 a new tower was built beside the old one.

As you travel the gravel road to Lookout Butte, imagine what it must have been like to pack four months of supplies onto a packhorse and travel the distance in a saddle. The road from Swiftwater Bridge wasn't completed until 1939.

Call the Moose Creek Ranger District for information and brochures.

How to Get There

Travel to Lowell, Idaho located approximately midway between Lewiston, Idaho and Missoula, Montana on Highway 12, Milepost 97. Cross the Selway Bridge and drive 3½ miles and cross the Swiftwater Bridge on your right. Follow the signs 13 miles for about one hour to the lookout. An alternate route has you traveling 6½ miles upriver from the Selway Bridge, cross the O'Hara Bridge on your right and follow the signs for about one hour to the lookout.



How To Reserve

The tower is available from June 15 - September 30. Rent is \$40 per night with a maximum stay of seven nights. Checkout time is 12:00 noon.

Reservations can be made online at: <http://www.recreation.gov> or by phone at: 1-877-444-6777.

