



News Release

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Plumas National Forest
P.O. Box 11500
Quincy, California 95971

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contacts: Michele Jimenez-Holtz (530) 283-7744
Lee Anne Schramel Taylor (530) 283-7850
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Black Mountain Lookout Proposed as Recreation Rental

The Plumas National Forest is in the final stages of preparing the Black Mountain Lookout for recreation rental status and is seeking feedback from the public regarding proposed fees. The lookout is expected to be ready for use by spring/summer of 2010 with a proposed fee of \$50-70 for an overnight stay. Information about the lookout and the proposed fee site can be found on the Federal Register website at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>. For questions or comments about the proposal, contact Beckwourth Ranger District Archaeologist Mary Kliejunas, or Recreation Specialist Judy Schaber, at (530) 836-2575.

Black Mountain Lookout is situated on the eastern edge of the Beckwourth Ranger District, 10 miles from Highway 395, near Milford, California. The lookout was constructed in 1936, and is a great example of Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) period architecture. The lookout offers striking views of Honey Lake to the north, and Last Chance Creek to the south.

The lookout has electricity and rental amenities will include a small stove, small refrigerator, heater, lights, and a vault toilet. No water will be provided but there will be a dry sink available for dish washing, etc. Two beds with mattresses will be provided in the lookout cab for up to four people. Tent camping adjacent to the lookout will be available for a maximum of eight visitors.

The location will be accessible in the winter months via snowmobile, skis, or snowshoes, and in the summer, accessible via a two-wheel drive vehicle on a native surface road. RVs are strongly discouraged because the road to the lookout is steep and narrow in places, with very limited turn-around space.

No longer needed for fire detection, Black Mountain has not been staffed since the mid-1980s, and until recently, was in a state of disrepair. In 2008, the Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provided grant funding for restoration efforts, and two local volunteers, Mike Martini and Pete Meyer,

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contributed 336 volunteer hours to the project. Their enthusiasm, knowledge and skills were truly invaluable and their contributions have been integral to the success of the overall project.

Fire lookouts provide extraordinary views of our nation's forests, and are tangible reminders of the role of the Forest Service in protecting communities from wildfire. Today, some of the lookouts are not staffed for fire detection activities because other technologies are used instead. There is a great deal of public interest in preserving these lookouts. Adaptive re-use has proven to be a successful way of protecting historic facilities, and Black Mountain Lookout is slated to become the first of many anticipated recreation rentals on the forest. The proposed re-use will not only help to protect this National Register of Historic Places eligible property, but will also provide visitors with an opportunity to experience life in a lookout first hand.

Once open, reservations for the lookout will be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service, <http://www.reserveusa.com>, or call (877) 444-6777.

For general information about historic facilities on the Plumas National Forest, contact Heritage Program Manager Julie Burcell, at (530) 283-2050.

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Key points:

- 1) Black Mountain Lookout is proposed as a recreation rental and will be available for use in 2010.**
- 2) The proposed fees are \$50-70 a night.**
- 3) For more information or to comment, contact Beckwourth Ranger District Archaeologist Mary Kliejunas, or Recreation Specialist Judy Schaber, at (530) 836-2575.**