

*Scroll through to find the interpretive site you are interested in.  
Sites are listed alphabetically.*



## Bar Gulch Cabin

The date etched into the cement foundation of this cabin is dated 1958. Forest Service documentation supports that it was originally built as a special use (miner's) cabin, but it was never really used for that purpose and was instead used as a recreation residence. This continued up until the 1980s, when the cabin was deeded to the Forest Service and converted to a recreation rental. The cabin has undergone historically accurate upkeep and furnishings are consistent with a 1950s recreation cabin.

The site represents an excellent example of the trend of recreational cabins which appeared on Forest Service lands during the 20th century. In recent years, recreation and historic preservation have become important aspects of the agency's mission. The cabin was restored in the 1990s. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been placed on the Forest Service cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

**Please help us maintain the past for the future.**



If you would like more information, please contact the  
Townsend Ranger District at 406-266-3425.

**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**



## Cummings Cabin

Cummings Cabin is an historic structure, representative of the old mining cabins that dotted the countryside in the greater Lincoln area around 1910. Rumor has it that the original mining claim belonged to \*two colored men in the late 1800s.

The cabin has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. It is being maintained for its historical and recreational value and is in the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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If you would like more information, please contact  
Lincoln Ranger District at 406-362-7000.

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*\*this information was excerpted from a letter received from permittee, Bob Cummings, in the 1960s.*



## Eagle Guard Station

Eagle Guard Station was originally a miner's cabin built by "Dirty Dick" Owen and his mining partner in 1895. Dirty Dick earned his nickname by smearing axle grease over his hands and face in the summer to repel insects. Many locals remember him as "the dirtiest man they ever knew." He had left his wife and daughter back east when he came west to seek his fortune but they came looking for him. However, once they arrived, they would never live with him. Instead, they chose to settle in Radersburg, where his wife ran a boarding house. His daughter married a local and Dirty Dick lived in a shack on her property in his later years. His wife passed in 1932 and he followed in 1934. You can still find the family's headstones in the Radersburg cemetery.

The Forest Service used this location not long after the Elkhorn Reserve was established in 1908. The cabin was used on a regular basis for the administration of grazing and mining permits and the maintenance of recreation trails until the 1950s. With the modernization of the Forest Service (better roads, vehicles, communication systems, fire detection), the cabin was no longer used for administrative purpose and fell into disrepair.

In recent years, recreation and historic preservation have become important aspects of the agency's mission. In 1989 work began to restore the cabin to its original condition. Several logs were replaced, the roof repaired, and old doors, windows, and floors rebuilt. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It is now in the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

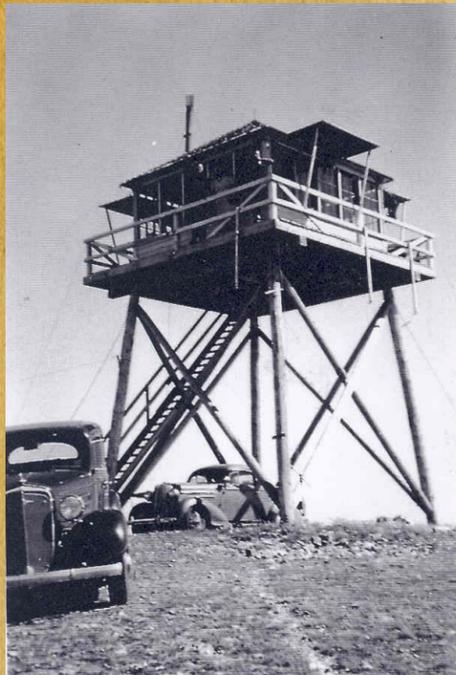
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**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**

*Some of the historical information excerpted from Home on the Range, Montana's Ranger Stations, author Vicky MacLean*



## Granite Butte Lookout

The Lookout was built at an elevation of 7600 feet in 1933 or 34. The 1937 Regional Office inspection noted: *"T20 standard L4, good. Standard lightning protection is installed. On a road and needs a good toilet. Built for \$1,292."*

Mark Hopkins, who was the lookout here in 1939 and 1940 shared an old photo of the lookout. He remembered that the first smoke he reported was from the train at Blossburg. He said the food was good and he made \$90 a month. He said he could, and did, listen in on the phone calls between Lincoln and Canyon Creek for entertainment.

In 1962 the original lookout was replaced with the current structure, a standard R-6 Flat cab on top of a 20' treated timber tower. After another 50 years of on again, off again use, it was time for complete restoration. The Montana Wilderness Association and volunteers for the Continental Divide Trail (<http://wildmontana.org/wildword/towering-accomplishment>) completed a rebuild in 2016. The lookout was added to the National Historic Lookout Register in 2008. It is being maintained for its historic and recreational value and is now in the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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If you would like more information, please contact the Lincoln Ranger District at 406-362-7000.

**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**

*Some of the historical information excerpted from The Helena National Forest, The Early Days, author Vicky MacLean*



The Conway (Indian Flats) Guard Station at its original location.

## Indian Flats Guard Station

The present Indian Flats Guard Station started its days as the Conway Station on Rock Creek in the Jim Ball Basin. This cabin was constructed in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the classic C-1 building style. This structure replaced the original Conway Station. Rangers used this cabin when fulfilling administrative duties in the area.

In 1969, the cabin was relocated to its current location below Indian Flats. Considerable restoration was made in the early 1990s. The cabin retains almost all of its original construction materials and design elements. The cabin is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been placed on the Forest Service cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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## Judith Ranger Station

In 1908, Ranger Thomas Myers got authorization and \$450 to build the Judith Ranger Station. Lumber was purchased at Great Falls, shipped to Benchland, and hauled by team 26 miles to the Judith Station site. The blueprint called for 24 foot hip rafters which Ranger Myers deemed too long so he cut off 2 feet. They were still too long so he cut off 2 more feet. He noted that the design was such that *"the roof with that pitch would split raindrops."* Ranger Myers spent 25 years at Judith and had 15 different supervisors during that time.

The nomination card indicates that the existing dwelling was built in 1909 and exhibits Swiss/German construction details and planning practices. Restoration work was done on this old ranger station beginning in the late 1980s and completed in 2005.

This cabin is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been placed on the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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If you would like more information, please contact the current  
Judith Ranger Station at 406-566-2292.



**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**

*Historical information excerpted from Home on the Range, Montana's Eastside Ranger Stations, author Vicky MacLean*



## Kading Guard Station

The original cow-camp cabin built by C.J. Kading

A letter dated April 13, 1912 from the Forest Supervisor to Assistant Ranger Mizner instructs him to select a site for a ranger station in the vicinity of Kading Cabin and to get help from Ranger Sheehey if needed. A report from 1913 from Ranger Sheehey: *"that this is a good location being between the Blackfoot Station and the Burnt Hollow Station. The Blackfoot telephone line passes through here and trails radiate out in all directions."* The report stated that the cabin was built by C.J. Kading of Deerlodge as a cow camp, but was not presently in use. It was used by the Ranger as a stopping point and he went on to recommend the site be used for administrative purposes.

The present Kading Cabin was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1941. A letter dated October 1940 from Forest Service personnel stated that the plan for this location was for a two-room cabin. Evidently plans changed because the Kading Cabin ended up as the small, one-room structure you see today.

In recent years, recreation and historic preservation have become important aspects of the agency's mission. The cabin was restored in the 1990s. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been placed on the Forest Service cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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If you would like more information, please contact the  
Helena Ranger District at 406-449-5201.

**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**

*Historical information excerpted from The Helena National Forest, The Early Days, author Vicky MacLean*



## Kenck Cabin

The Kenck Cabin was built in 1924 by a travelling dentist/doctor who arrived in the area in 1904 and spent his entire career along the Rocky Mountain Front. The cabin was constructed with fire-killed logs.

After Dr. Kenck's death the cabin remained in the ownership of his two sons and was permitted on the district as a recreation residence. When the surviving son passed away in 2003, the cabin was donated to the Forest Service by the Kenck Family Trust. In accepting the cabin the Forest committed to maintaining its historical and recreational value. The cabin is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is now on the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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If you would like more information, please contact  
Augusta Ranger District at 406-562-3247.



**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**



## King's Hill Guard Station

The first King's Hill Guard Station, May, 1916

This site was first developed in about 1910. Ranger Walter Donaldson from Four Mile noted that there was a lookout cabin, horse corral and small barn at King's Hill where four ranger districts joined corners. These were likely the Belt Creek, Sheep Creek, Tenderfoot, and Judith Districts. Facilities records found at the National Archives indicate that the early cabin was a 1-story log structure built in 1913.

The cabin presently on site is a modified C-4 design built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937 and 1938 along with the log garage. A porch has been added onto the back of the cabin along with an outhouse and a woodshed of modern construction.

In recent years, recreation and historic preservation have become important aspects of the agency's mission. The cabin is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been placed on the Forest Service cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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If you would like more information, please contact the  
White Sulphur Springs Ranger Station at 406-547-3361

**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**

*Historical information excerpted from Home on the Range, Montana's Eastside Ranger Stations, author Vicky MacLean*



Monument Peak Lookout, 1996

## Monument Peak Lookout

The L-4 style was by far the most popular live-in lookout. It came in three generations: with a 14x14 foot wood frame cab, windows all around; sitting on the ground, or atop pole or timber towers up to 100 feet tall. The 1929-1932 version featured a gable (2-sided) wood shingle roof. The 1933-

1935 version had a 4-sided hip roof. The 1936-1952 version had a similar hip roof, with extended ceiling joists to hold the window shutters open.

This lookout was built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and is the only remaining original CCC constructed lookout on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. It was located to "look out" over the Little Belt Mountain range. Can you tell what version of the L-4 style it was built in?

In recent years, recreation and historic preservation have become important aspects of the agency's mission. The lookout was listed in the National Historic Lookout Register in 2005 and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been removed from its original 50 foot tower, restored and added to the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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If you would like more information, please contact  
White Sulphur Springs Ranger District at 406-547-3361.

**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**



## Moose Creek Ranger Station

This is the oldest district headquarters on the Helena National Forest that still exists. The Forest Service had several facilities built with this standard design and is an example of the organized "infrastructure" the agency developed in the early years.

Records indicate that this site was put into use on April 6, 1908. A 1911 map shows facilities on both sides of the creek and up Moose Creek as well. Correspondence dated 1912 mentions a log house 27 x 29 feet, a log barn 21 x 29 feet, and a log chicken house 11 x 2 feet. This ranger station was in use until 1928 when the district was combined with the McClellan District in the North Elkhorns. Headquarters moved to Helena.

This location then became part of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp which was established just up the road (where snowmobile parking lot is located). After that, it became part of a war dog training facility during World War II. Correspondence in 1939 from a Forest Supervisor to a Regional Forester noted: *It is planned at this time that the Camp Rimini Superintendent will occupy the station residence and that the entire station including residence, barn and pasture will be reconditioned for use after the CCC camp is moved.*

In 1946 the cabin was authorized under the terms of a special use permit and private entities used the cabin recreationally for many years. In 1998 the station was deeded back to the Forest Service and has undergone considerable restoration efforts. This cabin is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It is now on the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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**Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest**

*Historical information excerpted from Home on the Range, Montana's Eastside Ranger Stations, author Vicky MacLean*



## Rillway Cabin

In 1918, Dr. A.C. McKay received a term permit from the Forest Service for a campsite on Deep Creek. He built this cabin between 1918-1922 with hand-hewn logs. Dr. Kelly was a popular member of the Townsend community and served as Mayor from 1920-1924. He left town shortly after his last year in office, briefly living in Bozeman, then permanently returning to his hometown of Chicago.

Before leaving, he sold the property to Nellie Hale Averill, editor/publisher of the Townsend Star, and her son-in-law, Floyd Holloway. After 1924, the cabin was known as the Rillway Cabin—a combination of the Averill/Holloway names. Serving as a summer residence for both families, the cabin was frequented by many guests. During the 1930s, guests started recording their visits in graffiti on logs and chinking near the front door.

This cabin came under Forest Service administration in 1997 and is a great example of the trend of recreation cabins on public lands. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been placed on the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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Duck Creek Civil Conservation Corp Camp, 1930s



The Cookhouse, now the Thompson Guard Station Cabin

## Thompson Guard Station

This station was the site of the Duck Creek Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) C F59 and was in operation from 1935-1938. The CCC camp provided numerous articles to local newspapers at that time, showing the impact CCC enrollees had on daily life in surrounding communities. The site showed up on a 1926 Helena National Forest map, but little is known about this site other than the remaining building was the cookhouse. Foundations remain of the other buildings on this site.

In recent years, recreation and historic preservation have become important aspects of the agency's mission. Considerable restoration was made to the structure in the early 1990s. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained and managed for its historic and recreational value. It has been placed on the cabin rental program for your enjoyment.

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