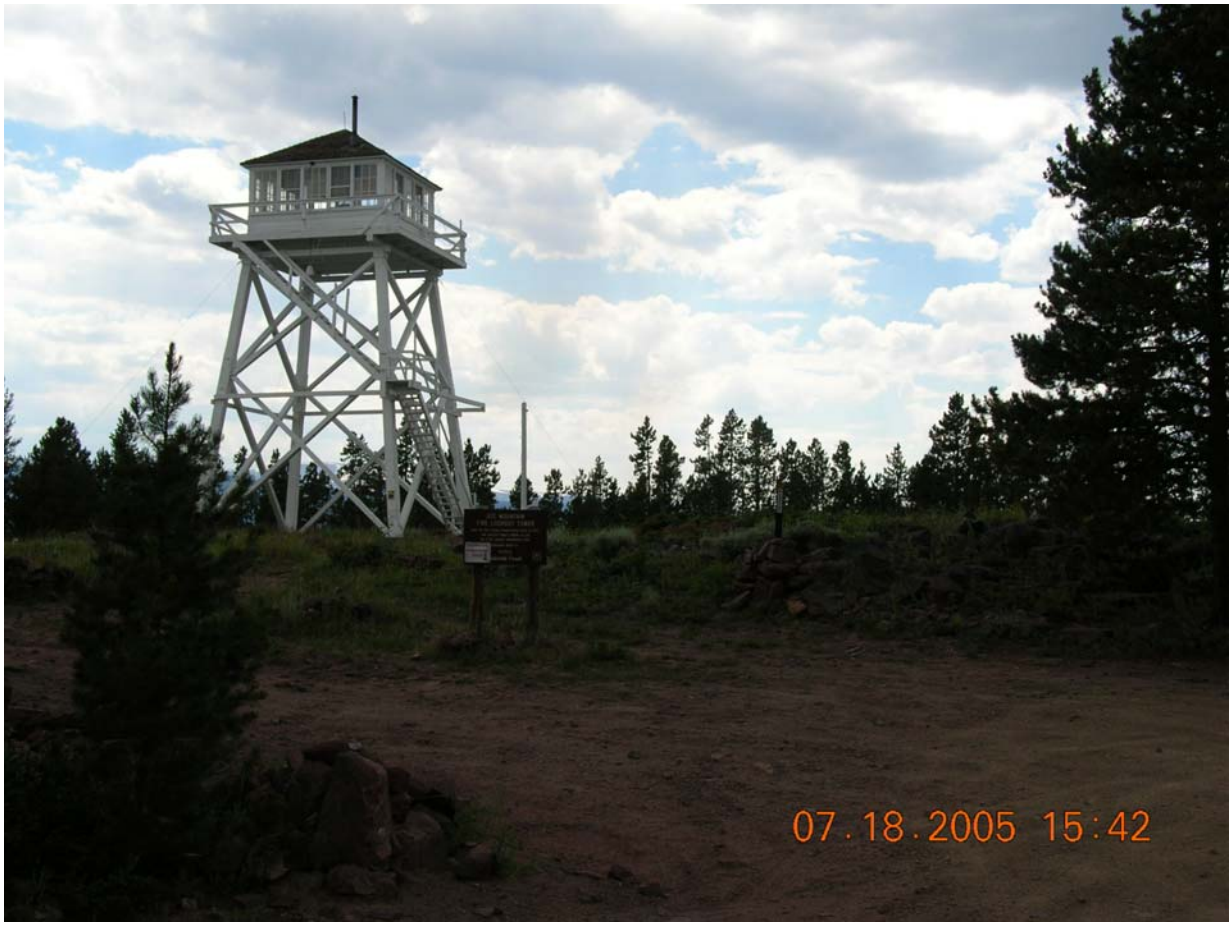
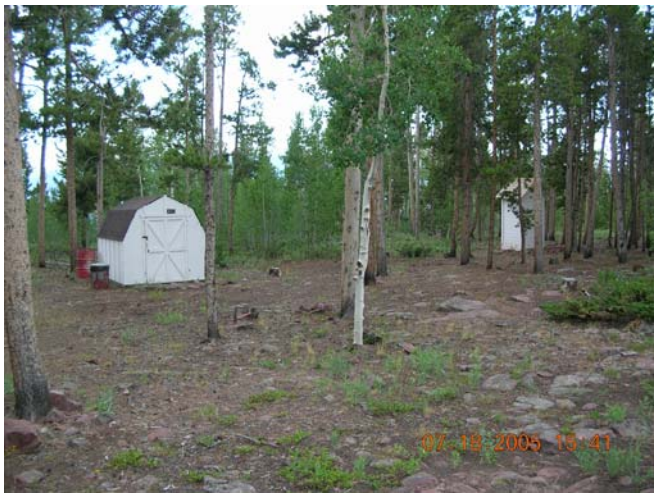
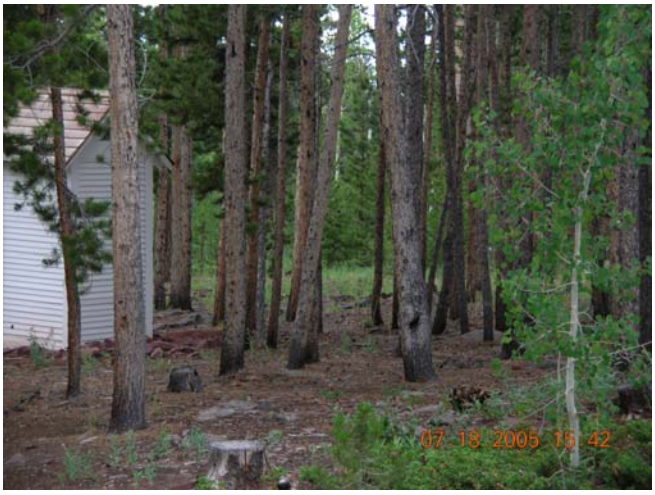
Ute Tower Protection Plan
For
Sheep Creek Fire
Ashley National Forest



This plan is intended to provide ideas and suggestions for the protection of the Ute Mountain Lookout in the event the Sheep Creek wildland fire use fire exceeds its maximum management area (MMA). An incident management organization may wish and will have the option of altering the plan for best suited protection.

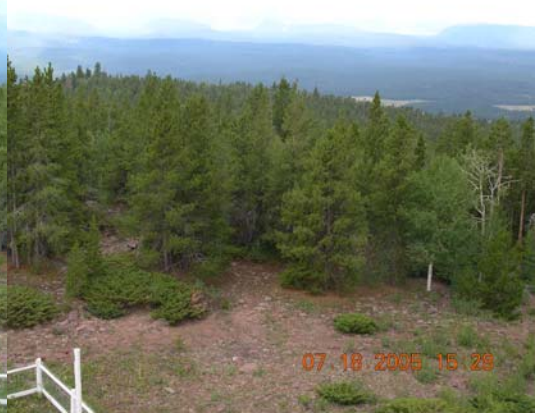
The compound itself has four structures; the 75' lookout tower, a 8' x10' storage shed, an outhouse and an enclosure for a no longer used weather station. The storage shed and outhouse lie directly east of the tower. Fuels past fuels reduction efforts are evident and may be sufficient for the protection of these structures.



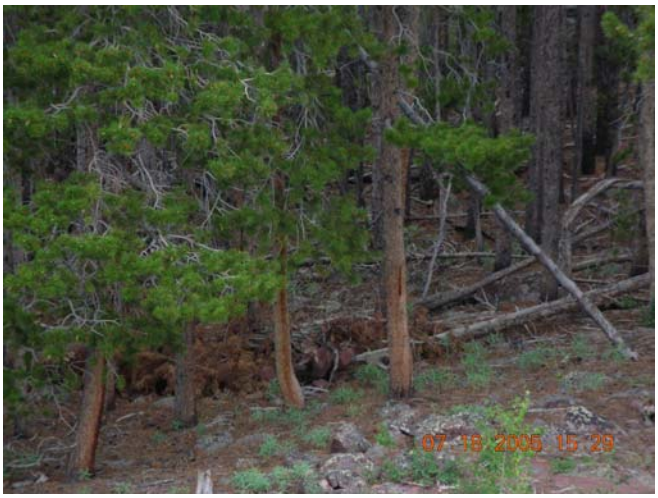


It is suggested that old fire shelters or equivalent protective wrap be used for these structures. It will also be beneficial to limb up existing pine to at least 6 feet. Needle beds need to be pulled away from outbuildings.

The out of use weather station is part of the historic complex and should receive consideration for protection. It is surrounded by rock and grass and is free of fuel accumulations.



A fuel break ranging from 90 feet to 120 feet exists between the tower and existing pine stands on all sides of the tower. This needs to extend out to 200 feet total with a shaded fuel break, primarily to the north, south and west sides. Standards to consider are thin to a spacing of 8–10 feet with limbing to at least 6 feet. Pole size and larger diameter trees should be cut to at least 10 – 16 feet in two foot increments and decked in open areas for later use.



From 200-250 away from tower stands need to be limbed to at least 6 feet and all jackpot concentrations removed to help prevent torching.

Limbs, slash and other fuel accumulations can be chipped in rocky, cleared areas around tower or deposited in dump trucks for disposal. Contact district and Forest engineers for dump truck use.

Corrugated window shutters can be found in the storage shed along with a post and wench that mount to the tower platform. Advise using shutters to prevent radiant heating through windows.

A portable tank, preferably 5,000 gallons, needs to be set up in open area adjacent to the tower with a pump and hose system. Ensure that pump is adequate to lift water through at least ¾” line to the top of tower (75ft.) to feed sprinklers. Ensure sprinklers are adequate enough to saturate the roof of tower. Laterals or separate lines with sprinklers should be used to place on pole decks.