

Nez Perce National Forest

Lookout Facts

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<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Camps	55
TT L-4	14
TT Flat	8
Log cabin with cupola	20
D-6 frame cabin with cupola	4
L-4 ground cab	10
L-4 pole tower	37
Pole L-6 tower	6
Cabins	32
Platform towers	10
Crows Nest	9
L-4 on log crib	1
Pole tower with 7' x 7' cab	2
100' steel tower	4
90' steel tower	1
90' wood tower	1
Lookout trees	5

- ❖ Over time, there have been 148 lookout points across the Nez Perce National Forest. Some of these points have had numerous structures located upon them. Of those 148 different locations, only 21 lookout structures remain.
- ❖ The first lookout constructed on the Nez Perce National Forest was at Coolwater Mountain in 1915 (this was on the old Selway National Forest).

- ❖ The second lookout on the Forest was constructed at Pilot Knob. According to the first Forest Supervisor *George Ring*, this 1916 lookout was one of the first "ready-cut" lookouts constructed on any Forest.
- ❖ In 1919 a log cabin with cupola was built on Iron Mountain.
- ❖ There have been four D-6 frame cabin with cupola lookouts on the Forest. Three of them were two-stories high---Nut Basin, Corral Hill, and Maple Lake. The fourth, a single story D-6, was located at North Pole Mountain.
- ❖ From 1919 through 1931 there were 20 log cabin with cupola lookouts built on the Forest. Sourdough Peak, constructed in 1927, is the sole survivor.
- ❖ Elk Summit Lookout is one of only four active Aermotor lookouts remaining in the Northern Region. The lookout is used today on an as needed basis. Measuring 100' tall, the steel tower was prefabricated by Aermotor Company of Chicago Illinois, famous for their windmill towers. Lookout towers of this type are more frequently found in the southeastern United States and are somewhat rare in the Pacific Northwest.
- ❖ Hanover Mountain was once the site of a crows nest and log cabin. The cabin was destroyed in the 1960s. Hanover Mountain was named after Slate Creek District Ranger William Hanover. Hanover served briefly as ranger from 1924 - 1926. His life ended tragically when he was riding the trail from Florence to Wind River. His horse "exploded" and bucked under a tree where a large limb struck him in the head, inflicting fatal injuries.
- ❖ The present Pilot Knob Lookout, built in 1939, is the only L-4 model remaining with a pole tower rather than treated timber.
- ❖ Wylies Peak Lookout, known fondly as the "classic" was built in 1925 on Wylies Peak. The log cabin with cupola was perched atop a massive granite boulder creating a wondrous site from a distance. Its usefulness for fire

detection was short lived and in 1934 Wylies Peak Lookout was closed. In 1983 this landmark of the Selway was hit by lightning and destroyed.

- ❖ There were five L-4 lookout towers built in 1953—Anderson Butte, Coolwater, Corral Hill, Gardiner Peak, and Shissler Peak.
- ❖ Chair Point, an L-4 tower is the most recent lookout on the Forest. It was constructed in 1980.
- ❖ Of the twenty log cabin with cupola lookouts that once existed on the Forest, eight of them were located within what is today the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. There is only one log cabin with cupola lookout remaining on the Forest today. It is located on Sourdough Peak.
- ❖ The 1929 L-4 model lookout had a 14' x 14' frame cab and was bundled in kits for easy transport on mules. It could be placed on a tower constructed from poles located on site. The cost of the kit—\$500.
- ❖ Shearer Peak bears the name of Phil Shearer, a homesteader who staked his claim at what we refer to today as the Shearer Guard Station. Shearer was well known for his cattle and liquid spirits, both of which he transported to Darby, Montana every year to sell. In 1953 a 53' treated timber L-4 was constructed on Shearer Peak. It was destroyed in 1973.