

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**DRAFT: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Big Hole Lookout

Other names/site number: 24SA0158 Montana

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 4.3 miles northeast of Eddy, Montanna, Lolo National Forest

City or town: Plains State: MT County: Sanders

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets  
the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I  
recommend that this property be considered significant at the following  
level(s) of significance:

    national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B X C     D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MT State Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐  
Public – Local ☐  
Public – State ☐  
Public – Federal ☒

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒  
District ☐  
Site ☐  
Structure ☐  
Object ☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT  
OTHER/Fire Lookout  
            
            
            
            
          

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT  
DOMESTIC: hotel (cabin rental)  
          

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Lookout House, Plan L-5, Log

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### Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE

Walls: WOOD/log, weatherboard; GLASS

Roof: WOOD/shingle

Other:

## Narrative Description

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### Summary Paragraph

Big Hole Lookout is located on the Lolo National Forest in northwestern Montana. It lies just over four miles northeast of the Clarks Fork River on Big Hole Peak of the Cabinet Mountains at an elevation of 6919 feet. Access occurs via a pedestrian trail. The lookout is a 14-foot by 14-foot square, one story, gable-end building that rests on a stone foundation. Walls are constructed of hand-hewn logs with divided light windows all around overlooking the surrounding stands of pine and fir intermingled with open alpine slopes. Wood shutters protect the windows when not in use. The gabled roof is framed with wood and the gables clad in wood siding. Roofing is sawn, cedar shingles painted green. The fire lookout was constructed in 1930 following U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Region 1 standard design, "Lookout House, Plan L-5, Log." A restored outhouse, Forest Service sign, and hitching rail stand on the property. Big Hole Lookout is in excellent condition, retaining its historic integrity of location, materials, setting, feeling, workmanship, and association with fire detection in USFS Region 1 (Northern Region).

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### Narrative Description

Big Hole Lookout is a fire lookout house in northwestern Montana overlooking the mixed pine-fir stands of the Lolo National Forest. Constructed in 1930 following USFS standard design, "Lookout House, Plan L-5, Log," Big Hole Lookout is reached by traveling west of Plains, Montana on Highway 200 to Forest Road (FR) 887 then to FR 5587. The last 2 ¾ miles to the lookout are accessed by hiking Trail 368.

### *Big Hole Lookout (one contributing building, 1930)*

The Big Hole Lookout is a 14-foot by 14-foot, one story, log and wood frame building with a gabled roof. The lower walls the walls feature coped horizontal logs mortised into vertical corner posts that rest on a foundation of dry-stacked stone. Divided light windows positioned above the

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log walls overlook the mountainous landscape. The roof is framed with wood and the gabled ends clad in horizontal drop siding painted white. Roofing is unstained cedar shingles. On September 24, 1930, the *Sander County Independent Ledger* local newspaper reported on the lookout in the Forest Service News column.<sup>1</sup>

Entry to the lookout occurs on the south end of the east wall with the door constructed of wood with one light above three panels. Four wood, divided-light windows, six lights each, complete the east wall to the north. Two of the windows are fixed and two slide open for ventilation. Each of the remaining three walls have a ribbon of five, six-light windows with two sliders and three fixed windows per side. Large awning-style wood shutters, two per wall, cover the windows when the lookout is not in use; two-inch by 4-inch boards fixed to the outer shutter edge and the lower part of the wall near the foundation prop the shutters open. Windows, door, and shutters are painted white on the exterior and dark green on the interior. Metal cables anchored to bedrock extend from the four corners of the lookout add structural stability in the harsh mountain-top climate.

The lookout interior displays an open floor plan with wood plank flooring, log walls, and pine board ceiling and the divided light window framing, door, and walls are painted dark green. Floor and ceiling are unfinished. A hatch in the ceiling leads to an attic. Furniture consists of cabinetry, table, chairs, a bed, woodstove, and platform for the range finder. Big Hole lookout was placed on the cabin rental program in 2018.

In 2005, Big Hole Lookout was assessed for potential restoration and a Scope of Work developed for its restoration based on the historic materials and design. Several years elapsed to attain funding resulting in completion of the restoration in phases from 2013 to 2017. The original fabric of the lookout was retained as much as possible with work done by Forest Service employees and volunteers overseen by specialists from the Region 1 Historic Preservation Team. Restoration included replacing rotted logs and splicing those that were salvageable, removal and replacement of the rock foundation to facilitate log work, replacement/refurbishing of the drop siding on the gables, installation of new in-kind wood shingles on the roof, replacement of missing copper ridge cap, and installation of a new fireplace and chimney. Windows were restored and reinstalled with replicated shutters. The exterior door was replicated and installed. Floor and ceiling were replaced with in-kind materials where needed. The exterior of the lookout received a fresh coat of white paint and the interior painted dark green except for the unfinished wood plank ceiling and floor.

***Outhouse (one contributing building, approximately 1962)***

A small single-hole outhouse constructed at least by 1962 stands about 200 feet west from the lookout. It measures three feet square and topped by a steep gable roof clad with asphalt shingles; a small vent in the gable provides ventilation. The walls feature dropped siding painted green. A rebuilt vertical plank door attached to the building with large strap hinges provides

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<sup>1</sup> "Sanders County Independent Ledger", September 24, 1930, website accessed December 1, 2024, p. A8: <https://mthspublic.newspapers.com/image/965055794/?terms=Sanders%20County%20Independent%20Ledger>

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access in the north wall. In 2012, the outhouse was raised and its foundation replaced, longer screws emplaced to better secure the siding, and support cables attached to prevent tilting. The outhouse was once again fully functional by the time the 2013 Passport in Time Project occurred.

***Hitching Rail (one noncontributing structure, latest replacement 2018)***

One hitching rack, six feet long and attached to two native log posts that stand about four feet high, constructed from approximate six-inch diameters log poles has found consistent replacement through the years, the latest occurring in 2018.

***National Forest Sign (one noncontributing object, 2021)***

A National Forest sign noting, "National Forest Lookout Station, Big Hole, Elevation 6922" stands immediately southwest of the lookout. Two round posts support the sign, which displays severe weathering from the elements. The sign has been replaced multiple times over the years, most recently in 2021. At that time, the new sign was installed on the existing posts (of unknown age). The old posts promptly rotted and in 2023 were replaced with new 4 x 4 treated posts.

**Integrity**

Big Hole Lookout is in excellent condition and retains strong historic integrity. It stands in its original location, in a remote area only accessible by trail. Its remoteness in turn contributes to its exceptional integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The lookout retains integrity of workmanship and design. Restoration of the lookout from 2013 to 2019 resulted in some diminishment of integrity of materials, though the newer materials used in the restoration are all in-kind to the historic fabric. Big Hole Lookout represents a strong example of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Region 1 standard design, "Lookout House, Plan L-5, Log," appearing much as it did historically.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

CONSERVATION

ARCHITECTURE

ENGINEERING

**Period of Significance**

1930-1973

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1930

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Clyde P. Fickes/designer

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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### **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Big Hole Lookout, built in 1930, is the product of the Federal Government's natural resource conservation and fire protection efforts in the United States. Big Hole Lookout is a rare surviving example of a log L-5 style lookout house in USFS Region 1, an area that covers northern Idaho and Montana. The lookout meets National Register Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government and Conservation for its association with the protection of Federal timber lands from fire. It also meets National Register Criterion C for its engineering and architecture by embodying the design development of the USFS Region 1 lookout house. Big Hole Lookout represents one of two remaining L-5 lookouts designed by Forest Service design engineer Clyde P. Fickes. The lookout stands much as it did when constructed.

The period of significance begins in 1930, the date of construction of the lookout, and ends in 1973, when Big Hole Lookout was removed from active fire service. Significant dates include the year of its construction, 1930.

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

When constructed, the Big Hole Lookout, located in northwest Montana and managed by the Lolo National Forest, USFS Region 1 (Northern Region), fell within the Cabinet National Forest; the portion of the Cabinet where Big Hole Lookout stands was absorbed by the Lolo National Forest in 1954. Big Hole Lookout appears very much like it did when constructed and continues to physically reflect its period of significance, 1930 to 1975. It is now a popular destination on the cabin rental program.

The materials and plan of Big Hole Lookout follow Region 1 standard plan, "Lookout House, Plan L-5, Log," designed by Clyde P. Fickes. The first rendition of this plan dates to August 1928 and approved by L. C. Stockdale, Assistant District Forester. A revised edition of the plan, dated April 1930, was approved by Howard R. Flint, Acting Assistant District Forester. Differences in the plans are subtle, mostly associated with window details and door size. Big Hole Lookout and Skookum Butte Lookout near Lolo, Montana likely constructed in 1928 or 1929, stand as the only remaining L-5 type lookouts in USFS Region 1.<sup>2</sup>

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Form *L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967* by Janene Caywood documents the early historic events that led to the design and construction of fire lookouts in USFS Region 1. The early historical context found in that MPD applies to the history of Big Hole Lookout; some of the information herein is drawn from Caywood's MPD.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Note: In 1930 the Nez Perce National Forest developed a variation of L-5 design that incorporated log gabled end walls instead of wood framing and a cathedral ceiling. As of the writing of this nomination, three Nez Perce L-5 lookouts remain in Region 1: Burnt Knob, Square Mountain, and Burton Peak, all in northern Idaho.

<sup>3</sup> Janene Caywood, "L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967", National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, November 2, 2017.

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**Big Hole Lookout meets National Register Criteria A in the areas of Politics/Government and Conservation for its association with the protection of Federal timber lands from fire. National Forest Fire Management in Region 1.<sup>4</sup>**

***A Short General History of the Forest Service***

In 1864, conservationist and Congressman George Perkins Marsh wrote, “We have now felled forest enough everywhere, in many districts far too much.”<sup>5</sup> Public concern over unrestricted consumption of Federally-managed natural resources was growing and Congress ultimately responded. The Office of Special Agent in the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was created in 1876 to assess the quality and condition of forests in the United States. In 1881, the Office expanded into the Division of Forestry, and in 1891, President Benjamin Harrison signed the Forest Reserve Act authorizing the designation of public lands for civic interest. The designated lands were referred to forest reserves and managed by the General Land Office under the Department of Interior. From Forest Reserve Act passage in 1891 and continuing to the present, one of the primary goals of the US Forest Service resource has been protection.<sup>6</sup> “Officers of the Forest Service, especially forest rangers, have no duty more important than protecting the reserves from forest fires.”<sup>7</sup>

In 1897, Congress passed the Organic Administration Act stipulating the purposes of forest reserves as securing favorable conditions for water flow and to furnish timber for the citizens of the United States.<sup>8</sup> The Transfer Act, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on February 1, 1905, moved management of forest reserves to the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture. A month later, the Bureau became the Forest Service and two years after that, forest

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<sup>4</sup> The majority following Forest Service discussion, is synthesized from Janene Caywood’s most excellent (thank you Bill and Ted), *L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967* Multiple Property Document (cover documentation approved 1/25/2018, NR #MC100002040). Footnotes for the Forest Service discussion remain as presented in the Multiple Property Document.

<sup>5</sup> George Perkins Marsh, *Man and Nature*, Garden City, New York: Dover Publications, 2021, p. 270.

<sup>6</sup> The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 authorized the president of the United States to set apart and reserve forested lands for the public interest. These “forest reserves,” were to be managed by the General Land Office under the Department of the Interior. In 1897, Congress passed the Organic Administrative Act, which stipulated that the purpose of forest reserves was to protect watersheds and lands that were chiefly valuable for sustained timber production. The 1905 Transfer Act moved management of the forest reserves to the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture. Five months after passage of the Transfer Act, the Bureau of Forestry was formally renamed the U. S. Forest Service.

<sup>7</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, *The Use of the National Forest Reserves: Regulations and Instructions* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1905). The Use Book was a pocket-sized guide containing a summary of Forest Service regulations designed to be used by agency employees and by the public.

<sup>8</sup> “Organic Administration Act”, Act of June 4, 1897, pdf of document accessed from a Bureau of Land Management website on October 28, 2024, p. 6:

<https://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/system/files?file=legacy/uploads/23148/Organic%20Administration%20Act%20of%201897.pdf>

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reserves were renamed national forests.<sup>9</sup> One of the early forests established at the time was the Cabinet National Forest, the original forest where the Big Hole Lookout stands, now subsumed under the Lolo National Forest.

***The Use Book and Eye Toward Fire Recognition***

The first official manual published by the USDA Forest Service was the 1905 “Use Book.” It described regulations and policies for managing National Forests and articulated the importance of fire protection. “Probably the greatest single benefit derived by the community and the nation from forest reserves is insurance against the destruction of property, timber resources, and water supply by fire.”<sup>10</sup>

The Use Book noted the importance of spending time on promontories where fire starts could be visible, thus enabling initial attack when fires were yet small.<sup>11</sup> Initially, fire control infrastructure focused on making the forests accessible by trails and increasing the speed of communication by installing telephone lines. Forest Rangers, on horseback and on foot, patrolled the reserves and identified commanding points from which to view the landscape. These high-elevation points were referred to as “lookouts.”

***Improving Fire Detection***

In 1910, a massive wildfire burned more than three million acres of forested land in Montana and Idaho, spurring the agency to improve its protection systems in USFS Region 1. Henry S. Graves, dean of the Yale Forestry School, headed the US Forest Service for the decade immediately after the catastrophic Big Burn of 1910, which set in motion plans to upgrade fire monitoring efforts in the west.<sup>12</sup> In 1911, Graves further distilled the need for national forests projects and the goal of such projects. All construction projects were aimed at facilitating, 1) forest protection from fire, 2) administration of the business of the forest, and 3) development of the forest’s resources—three categories that defined the agency’s role for years.<sup>13</sup> Following five years of experimentation in fire control and preliminary administrative site surveys by the Forest Service, management plans further addressed, “1) general administration, 2) silviculture management, 3) grazing management, 4) permanent improvements, 5) forest protection, and 6) uses of the forest, such as settlements, special uses, water power, and administrative sites.”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> “Centennial Mini-Histories of the Forest Service, Chapter 15, Forest Transfer Act of 1905,” National Park Service History website accessed October 28, 2024: <https://npshistory.com/publications/usfs/fs-518/chap15.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Gifford Pinchot, “1905 ‘Use Book’”, *USU Digital Exhibits* accessed October 28, 2024, p.64: <http://exhibits.lib.usu.edu/items/show/12564>.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p. 69.

<sup>12</sup> Timothy Egan, *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*, (HMH Books, Boston, Massachusetts, 2010).

<sup>13</sup> USDA Forest Service, *Report of the Forester for 1911* by Henry S. Graves (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1911).

<sup>14</sup> Janene Caywood, *L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967* Multiple Property Document (cover documentation approved 1/25/2018, NR #MC100002040), p. 2; United States Department of Agriculture, *Forest Service National Forest Manual 1911-1913* (Washington: Government Printing Office).

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Procedures were initiated to identify and construct permanent improvements on lookout points. In 1915, a report for Region 1 noted progress in its fire protection measures:

Considering the development of the fire protective organization at its present stage with the organization as it was in 1910, we can unqualifiedly say that great progress has been made. Our methods of fire fighting have improved; our lookouts have been developed, improvements have been installed, the men have been trained, and in a great many ways the protective organization now can hardly be compared to the organization of a few years ago.

A great many more improvements are needed, opening up the country with trails and telephone lines, more lookout improvements must be built; more accurate data must be obtained with regard to liability and hazard, and the men must be trained. The men on whom we depend for fire protection largely are the District Rangers.<sup>15</sup>

By the time of the 1915 report, lookout development remained underwhelming. Region 1-wide, only 127 lookout points existed and included 85 primary lookouts, five secondary lookouts, 12 lookout cabins, and three towers.<sup>16</sup> Primary points were defined as those where guards were assigned as an “essential part of the fire plan,” such as being manned during the regular fire season, whereas secondary lookouts were only manned during emergency fire conditions.<sup>17</sup> Not all stations held the important mapping equipment necessary for accurate fire detection.<sup>18</sup> Twelve lookout points featured associated cabins, a very low number indicating most of the personnel manning the stations lived in tents near their observation point.

Despite progress, more lookouts were needed. In May of 1916, Region 1’s Acting Regional Forester Rutledge sent a letter addressed to all forest officers. The letter outlined the region’s policy toward establishing, developing, and maintaining lookout points, with a focus on detecting and suppressing wildfires.<sup>19</sup>

When funding was secured, lookout improvements ensued. An initial first step required the construction of a “passable trail” between the ranger district headquarters and the lookout

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<sup>15</sup> “General Report of the Fire Situation of 1915 District One”, pp 1-2. Folder 5100 “Fire Historical 1915-1918 Fire Seasons”, Box 51, RG 95 Records of the Forest Service Region 1, Missoula, Montana Historical Collection 1903-1990 (hereinafter RG 95 Historical Collection) National Archives and Records Administration, Seattle, Washington hereinafter NARA Seattle).

<sup>16</sup> “Lookouts in District 1” 1915. Folder 5100 Fire Historical 1915-1918 Fire Seasons, Box 51, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

<sup>17</sup> Acting District Forester Rutledge to Forest Officers, O –Fire Memo, May 9, 1916. Folder: Lookouts Historical 1 of 2, Box 45, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

<sup>18</sup> “Lookouts in District 1” 1915. Folder 5100 Fire Historical 1915-1918 Fire Seasons, Box 51, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

<sup>19</sup> Acting District Forester Rutledge to Forest Officers, O –Fire Memo, May 9, 1916. Folder: Lookouts Historical 1 of 2, Box 45, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

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point.<sup>20</sup> For lookout points with a “sharp top” that facilitated direct vision of a large area, the lookout man’s living quarters and the observatory were to be combined in one building.

Rutledge noted:

In order to secure the highest efficiency of the men, comfortable quarters should be provided. The standard lookout house for District 1 [Region 1] is a 12’ X 12’ frame structure with a band of glass entirely around the building at a convenient height for observation. This provides a continuous vision from the area which the man is expected to report fires from.<sup>21</sup>

Rutledge warned the forests to adhere to the new regional standard rather than the types of lookout cabins built previously. At lookouts where no sharp peak was available, it would be necessary to construct higher buildings or build towers to serve as the observatory.

Each forest supervisor provided direction in fire detection practice to district rangers and the lookout men via memos from the regional office. A 1919 Kootenai National Forest memo confirmed the importance of the men who manned the lookouts as the “eye of the protective organization.” Information covered included: necessary equipment provided to lookout personnel, the proper way to set a base board to place and orient forest maps, determining direction and distance of a fire, and keeping a sanitary camp. Further directives noted, “the lookout point will be occupied as nearly continuously as the location of the lookout camp and living conditions will permit and constant vigilance must be maintained.” Maintaining sanitary and clean lookouts and campsites was emphasized as “future lookout men will also appreciate shade and pleasant surroundings.”<sup>22</sup>

Construction of lookouts continued at a relatively slow pace despite the regional plan for lookout point development. Progress did occur though with just over 60 lookouts constructed in the first half of the 1920s and 130 added from 1926 to 1930.<sup>23</sup> Under the dictate of “forest protection,” the construction of lookouts soon took a great step forward across the region in all districts.

### **A Short Overview of Fire Lookout Development on the Lolo National Forest**

Development of lookouts on the Lolo National Forest followed the precepts applicable to regional directives. Pre-1916 improvements stood at Illinois Peak, Gold Peak, Ward Peak with about 12 additional lookout points improved by the end of the nineteen-teens.

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<sup>20</sup> Acting District Forester Rutledge to Forest Officers, 0 –Fire Memo, May 9, 1916. Folder: Lookouts Historical 1 of 2, Box 45, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle, p. 9.

<sup>21</sup> Acting District Forester Rutledge to Forest Officers, 0-Fire Memo, May 9, 1916. Folder: Lookouts Historical 1 of 2, Box 45, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle, p. 15.

<sup>22</sup> Acting Forest Supervisor “Instructions to District Rangers and Lookout Men,” June 1, 1919. Folder: F Statistics Bitterroot General Permanent Folder, Box 21, Series BIT05 Forest Supervisor’s Alpha Files, circa 1900-1960 (hereinafter BIT05); RG 95 Records of the Forest Service: Bitterroot National Forest (Hereinafter RG 95 BNF), NARA Seattle.

<sup>23</sup> Caywood, p. 6.



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A May of 1921 field review by Forest Inspector Howard Flint of the Forest's fire organization involved visiting at least four lookout points. Flint noted several shortcomings that included the less-than-desirable maps and alidades at several locations, and the substandard telephone connections. Flint also adjusted guidance for observation hours for the lookout personnel which stood at a single observation at 6:30 in the morning, followed by camp work until 12:00, with a return to observation from 12:00 until 8:00. His recommendations included the following: "Probably in no case should more than two hours elapse between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. without a careful observation... A good observation every hour would be greatly preferable, and seems very reasonable."<sup>24</sup>

By 1922, a number of lookout improvements were planned or in the works in the Forest including on the Powell District and the Quartz District.<sup>25</sup> Flint observed the Quartz District ranger held "the unusual opportunity to compare costs between log and frame lookout buildings because he is building one of each under conditions that are nearly identical... when the jobs are completed a write-up comparing the two buildings should make a very interesting bulletin article."<sup>26</sup>

By the early to mid-1920s, forests invested substantial effort toward their fire protection.<sup>27</sup> Inspections of surrounding forests witnessed recommendations such as in 1923, when the need to establish a new lookout point to cover the Montour and Lodgepole drainages (in the at-the time Missoula national Forest) was noted."<sup>28</sup>

Improvements in the Lolo National Forest gained steam by the 1930s, with much of the new construction following Fickes' pyramidal roof L-4 design plans, though exceptions did occur, witnessed by the subject of this nomination, the Big Hole Lookout. By 1934, undoubtedly with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), 17 new lookouts were constructed at established locations.<sup>29</sup> President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal CCC arose in 1933, providing

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<sup>24</sup> Howard Flint, Forest Examiner, "Memorandum" dated June 4, 1921. Folder: Lolo 1904-1923 1 of 4, Box 11, RG 95 USDA Forest Service Region 1 Division of Operations Inspection Reports 1906-1944 (hereinafter Inspection Reports), NARA Seattle. Lolo Forest Supervisor, Wilfred White responded to Flint's recommendations, mostly in the affirmative. He did not however agree with Flint on observation hours stating that if the lookout men were not required to make their first observation at 6:30 a.m. they began their day in a "tardy, slip-shod way" and furthermore that early observations were valuable. He explained that the instruction to the Lookouts represented the "minimum requirement during a favorable season, and there is no question but that Rangers will require their lookouts to make more frequent observations as necessity arises." Forest Supervisor, Wilfred W. White to District Forester, June 6, 1921. Folder: Lolo 1904-1923 1 of 4, Box 11, RG 95 USDA Inspection Reports, NARA Seattle.

<sup>25</sup> The Powell District was later transferred to the Clearwater National Forest.

<sup>26</sup> Howard R. Flint, District Forest Inspector, "Memorandum" September 29, 1922," Folder: Lolo 1904-1923 1 of 4, Box 11, RG 95 USDA Inspection Reports, NARA Seattle.

<sup>27</sup> D. L. Beatty, Nat'l Forest Examiner "Inspection Report Submitted January 4, 1923," Folder: Lolo 1904-1923 1 of 4, Box 11, RG 95 USDA Inspection Reports, NARA Seattle. This report covered portions of the old Missoula National Forest that eventually transferred to the Flathead and the Lolo forests. Beatty designed an early standard plan 14 ft. x 14 ft. log lookout building.

<sup>28</sup> D. L. Beatty, National Forest Examiner "Inspection Report Submitted January 4, 1923, Folder: Lolo 1904-1923, Box 11, RG 95 USDA Inspection Reports 1906-1944, NARA Seattle.

<sup>29</sup> Kresek *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, pp. 380-381.

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labor to national forests. The US Forest Service's role with the CCC was significant as much of the program's projects found their way through the agency, which employed greater than 50 percent of all enrollees. Peak CCC enrollment occurred in September 1935 at 500,000 reflecting 32 camps in Montana and 82 in Idaho.<sup>30</sup> Region 1 projects using CCC labor included road and trail construction to open more country to truck transport and improve the agency's ability to fight forest fires.<sup>31</sup> The CCC also played a hand in lookout construction with a report stating 250 lookouts were constructed since the establishment of the program.<sup>32</sup> A decline in lookout construction followed in the latter years of the 1930s and start of the 1940s.<sup>33</sup>

The United States' entry into World War II signaled the end of improvements on the Lolo and other National Forests. However, because advance of physical improvements slowed didn't preclude the agency from testing new firefighting ideas. The end of the 1930s witnessed the Forest Service experimenting with parachuting firefighters into areas of the forest combat blazes. The initial success resulted with the Lolo National Forest's Seeley Lake District hosting one of two smokejumper training camps in the national forest system in 1940. Seven of the (now referred to) "smokejumpers" trained at Seeley Lake prior to posting at Moose Creek Ranger Station in Idaho.<sup>34</sup> The following year, the smokejumper program moved to Region 1, based in Missoula with the Johnson Flying Service contracted to deliver supplies and men to remote backcountry areas. The 1941 season found three, eight-man squads stationed at three Region 1 forest, including one at Nine Mile Ranger Station on the Lolo.

Ground detection programs advanced in the mid-1940s as the Coeur d'Alene National Forest began its own program, which resulted in the reduction in number of lookouts from 33 to eleven.<sup>35</sup> The positive results of Coeur d'Alene's ground detection efforts compelled Region 1 forests to shift toward the new program. Implementation of the new system witnessed the reduction in number of fixed lookout positions in Region 1 from 844 to 501 from 1945-1950, a telling harbinger of the future manning of Big Hole Lookout. The new system was adopted in its

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<sup>30</sup> John A. Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1967).

<sup>31</sup> USDA Forest Service, *Report of the Forester for 1936* by F. A. Silcox (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936).

<sup>32</sup> "A Backward Glance and a Forward Look." Press release prepared for the *Daily Missoulian* 1940. Folder: 1680 History Miscellaneous Items W. Montana, 1918, 1937, 1949, 1944, Box 13, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

<sup>33</sup> Kresek *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, pp. 380-381.

<sup>34</sup> At the end of the 1940 season, the smokejumper Project Leader, Merle Lundrigan, wrote a report outlining the results of the season, in which he emphasized the importance of having the lookout names painted on the roofs or shutters, so that they could be viewed from the air. Lundrigan, "Report on Aerial Fire Control Activities," December 10, 1940. Folder: Report on Aerial Fire Control Activities, December 10, 1940, Box 45, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

<sup>35</sup> Letter to Pete Hanson, October 3, 1956. Folder: 1380 Reports Historical Reports to the Chief, FY 72, 73, 74, 75, Box 9, RG95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle. This letter was signed by the directors of Region 1 and by the heads of state and private forestry.

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entirety or partially by 12 of the 16 forests of Region 1 (at the time) by 1954, including the Lolo.<sup>36</sup>

In the 1950s, the Lolo participated in efforts to update or replace deteriorated lookout buildings resulting in six new lookout structures on previously improved points from 1952 to the mid-1960s.<sup>37</sup> Improvements and new construction, however, were no match for the pace of lookout abandonment or demolition.<sup>38</sup>

By 1967, the number of manned lookouts in the Lolo fell to 26 and by the early 1990s, only 10 manned lookouts operated.<sup>39</sup> The reduction reflected Region 1's integration of the Automatic Lightning Detection System (ALDS) along with aerial firefighting efforts; only 72 lookouts were manned region wide by 1992 with additional decreases occurring since.<sup>40</sup>

**Big Hole Lookout**

With the dawn of the 1930s, the Forest Service marched ahead with improvements. These included stringing telephone lines, road improvement and construction, and building new lookout stations.<sup>41</sup> Two new lookouts were under construction by September of 1930. The first on Penrose Peak featured a "ready cut building" and the second, the Big Hole Lookout "near the head of Weeksville Creek," described as "a log cabin... for a lookout station" under construction by "Frank Sears and Mr. Larson."<sup>42</sup>

Frank Sears, one of the two men credited with the construction of Big Hole Lookout, lived in Jacko Township of Sanders County with his wife Grace and two sons and two daughters in 1910.<sup>43</sup> Frank hailed from Vermont and worked as a laborer for the railroad at the time of the census. By 1930, Frank was employed as a "door tender" at a "timber treating plant."<sup>44</sup> Frank's previous experience on the railroad and with the timber plant apparently lent him the knowledge to secure the contract to construct the Big Hole Lookout. Frank served as the first to man the lookout as less than a year after its construction, he was present to extinguish a "small fire on Big Hole Peak" in June of 1931.<sup>45</sup> Frank remained at the lookout in 1932, though not without visitors: "Sunday he had as his guest, the Misses Louise Sears, Thelma and Thailnua Gray. The young ladies made the trip on horse back."<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Hand "History of Region 1 Lookout System," August 23, 1954. Folder: Historical: Lookouts, Box 46, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

<sup>37</sup> Kresek *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, pp. 380-381.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> "List of Lookouts in R 1 1967." Folder: 5100 Lookouts Historical 2 of 2, Box 45, RG95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle. This list includes only manned units. Many lookout points had been abandoned with the improvements left in place.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> "Many Changes In U.S. Forest Work," *Plainsman*, September 18, 1930, p. 1.

<sup>42</sup> "Many Changes In U.S. Forest Work," *Plainsman*, September 18, 1930, p. 1.

<sup>43</sup> Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910—Population, Jocko Township, Sanders County, Montana.

<sup>44</sup> Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930 Population Schedule, School District Number 8, Sanders County, Montana.

<sup>45</sup> "Small Fire on Big Hole Peak," *Plainsman*, June 18, 1931, p. 1.

<sup>46</sup> "Local News," *Plainsman*, August 4, 1932, p. 8.



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A month after the small fire, lookouts at Thompson Peak, Two Trees Peak, and Big Hole Peak received additional fire protection in the form of being “lightening equipped.”<sup>47</sup> These three stations were selected for the fitting as “other stations are well protected.”

The Civilian Conservation Corp visited the area in 1939 to construct a six-mile pack trail.<sup>48</sup> The construction of the trail “will join with the Big Hole Peak and will make firefighting easier in that section.”

In 1947, Big Hole Peak served as a topographic marker for a Forest Service boundary adjustment, the first adjustment “on the Cabinet Forest since sometime before the war.”<sup>49</sup> Regardless of forest boundary modifications, Big Hole Lookout, like all lookouts of the time, was manned. Information regarding personnel stationed at Big Hole proves intermittent. In 1956, Fred Ebel and Homer Myer served as lookouts; both returned to the University of Montana with the close of summer.<sup>50</sup> Two years later, in 1958, Allen Pilgeram manned the station beginning June 30.<sup>51</sup> In 1962, the Plains District of the Lolo National Forest hired five new employees set for a one-week guard training at the Ninemile Ranger Station.<sup>52</sup> Subsequent to the training, the five found postings, including one at Big Hole. In 1964, Harry Adams received the posting.<sup>53</sup>

The year 1965 brought word of the assignment of a woman to Big Hole Lookout:

Three lookouts in the Plains Ranger District are being “manned” and one is being “womanned” this summer. The lone female is the only one of the four from the Plains area.

Linda Harbine, daughter of Mrs. Ida Harbine and a junior at the University of Montana in Missoula, is currently spotting smokes from Big Hole Lookout.<sup>54</sup>

Beginning in 1966, Dave Jackson began a three-year tour of the Big Hole Lookout posting.<sup>55</sup> By the summer of 1968 after several stints, Mr. Jackson received the title of “veteran.”

As alternative methods of fire detection evolved, the use of fire lookouts declined. In 1967, Big Hole Lookout was one of only 26 slated for use that summer.<sup>56</sup> Big Hole proved unusual in terms of design compared to the other lookouts that generally represented the more common

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<sup>47</sup> “New Lookouts and Lightening Protection for Forest Service,” *Plainsman*, July 16, 1931, p. 1.

<sup>48</sup> “Forest Pack Trail Being Constructed,” *Missoulia*, May 2, 1939, p.8.

<sup>49</sup> “Ranger District Boundaries Adjusted,” *Plainsman*, June 26, 1947, p. 1.

<sup>50</sup> No Title, *Dillon Daily Tribune*, October 4, 1956, p. A6.

<sup>51</sup> “Local Items,” *Plainsman*, July 10, 1958, p. 4.

<sup>52</sup> “Extra Help Being Selected On Plains Ranger District,” *Plainsman*, June 14, 1962, p. 1.

<sup>53</sup> “Forest Service Personnel Man Area Lookouts,” *Plainsman* July 23, 1964, p. 1.

<sup>54</sup> “Plains Lookouts Staffed by men, Woman,” *Missoulia*, July 30, 1965, p. 8.

<sup>55</sup> “Fire Potential Could Be High Again This year,” *Missoulia*, June 23, 1968, p. 17.

<sup>56</sup> “List of Lookouts in R 1 1967.” Folder: 5100 Lookouts Historical 2 of 2, Box 45, RG95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle. This list includes only manned units. Many lookout points had been abandoned with the improvements left in place.

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1931 or 1936 L-4 cabs.<sup>57</sup> In 1973, Acting District Ranger Fred Cavill informed the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation the lookout would be dropped from the Lolo's fire detection system, citing the lookout's limited 20-year record of fires detected from its location and fiscal budget tightening.<sup>58</sup> By the early 1990s, only 10 manned lookouts operated in the Lolo.<sup>59</sup> Some abandoned lookouts, including Big Hole, have garnered new life as recreational rental units in the region's cabin rental program.

**Big Hole Lookout meets National Register Criteria C for embodying the design development of the Region 1 lookout house and its distinction as one of two remaining L-5 designs of its type, exhibiting architecture and engineering of the period.**

*Clyde Fickes and Forest Lookout Design*

Clyde P. Fickes was instrumental in lookout house development in Region 1. In 1927, he visited Districts on the Pend Orielle National Forest in northern Idaho, fulfilling his duties as new supervisor of the improvement program. He learned the Port Hill District had funding for a lookout house on Smith Peak but no construction plans. According to Fickes, he practically grew up in a carpenter shop and learned small building construction from his father. He set forth developing a set of plans for a 12-foot x 12-foot lookout with a cupola for Smith Peak. During the winter of 1928, he attended a meeting where fire control was the principal topic along with the "great need for more and better fire discovery facilities."<sup>60</sup> Fickes's skills were recognized, and in 1928 he moved to Missoula, Montana, to work in the Regional Office. Fickes wrote in his *Recollections* that after the 1929 fire season discussion ensued on how to improve the comforts and effectiveness of lookouts. The 12-foot x 12-foot structure with cupola was deemed unsatisfactory, as too much observation time was wasted climbing up and down. Instead, a 14-foot x 14-foot house with windows all around was preferred.

Blueprints titled "Lookout House, Plan L-4 of a 14-foot by 14-foot wood frame lookout with gable end and six light windows" were drawn by draftsman J. B. Halm in July 1928, likely under the supervision of Fickes. A very similar blueprint of a 14-foot x 14-foot log lookout with wood framed gable end and six light windows was drawn a month later in August. Fickes was noted as the designer and J. B. Halm again as the draftsman; this blueprint was titled "Lookout House, Plan L-5, Log." The date chronology possibly informed the numbering of the plans, L-4 and L-5. The L-4 was an all-wood frame structure conducive to prefabrication and packing on mules for transportation to the remote lookout sites. The prototype L-4 plan of 1928 was revised several times and became the most-used standard look house plan in Region 1; Regional

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<sup>57</sup> Kresek *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, pp. 380-381.

<sup>58</sup> Lolo National Forest Cultural Resources files, Missoula, Montana.

<sup>59</sup> Press release dated Feb. 1992 "Seventy-Two Lookouts to be Operated This Summer Down from 800 Used in 1938" Folder: Historical: Lookouts, Box 46, RG95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle; Kresek *Lookouts of the Northwest*, pp. 380-381.

<sup>60</sup> Clyde P. Fickes, Forest Ranger Emeritus, "Recollections," 1972, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region Hqds., Information Office, p. 83.

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Forester, Evan Kelley, approved the drawings for the pyramidal roof L-4 lookout house in 1931, after the construction of the L-5 Big Hole Lookout of this nomination.<sup>61</sup>

The log L-5 plan was slightly revised in 1930, then abandoned in favor of the L-4s. It appears later L-5 lookouts shrank to a 10-foot by 10-foot building becoming a generally smaller version of the L-4.<sup>62</sup> Many of these were constructed at secondary points in the 1930s; however, “a handful of 14 x 14’ ” L-5 “gable roofed log cabins” were constructed in Montana and Idaho.<sup>63</sup> By 1938, only 16 L-5 log 14-foot by 14-foot gable roof lookouts were counted among the 838 improved lookout points.<sup>64</sup> Presumably this included the standard plans designed by Clyde P. Fickes and the revised Nez Perce design noted in footnote 2, above. The log L-5 never proved popular; it was more difficult and time consuming to construct than the frame L-4 resulting in it being “quite rare.”<sup>65</sup>

The short-lived L-5 lookout and much more popular L-4 shared a few design traits that included the 14-foot square block and early on, a gable roof. The L-4 later shifted to a pyramidal roof, possibly reflecting a reduction in material need and sizes more easily transported on mules.<sup>66</sup> The 14-foot by 14-foot size, whether for the L-5 or L-4, proved large enough to accommodate the requisite fire-finding equipment and accommodation for a lookout person.

Beyond, these basic similarities, the two lookout styles differed significantly. L-4s generally held banks of nine-light window units versus the six-light units found on the L-5s. Most L-4s found placement on a tower, though placement directly on the ground occurred, similar to how most L-5s were built. Whereas L-5s featured log lower half-walls topped by windows protected by gable roofs with the gables clad with drop siding, L-4s generally displayed drop siding below the (often) nine-light window units; L-4s on towers often featured catwalks. In general, both L-5s and L-4s are quite simple in their presentation and construction.

## Conclusion

The 1930-constructed Big Hole Lookout is eligible to list under criteria A and C. The lookout represents the Federal Government’s natural resource conservation and fire protection efforts and survives as one of only two remaining examples of a log L-5 style lookout house in USFS Region 1, embodying the design development of the USFS Region 1 lookout house.

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<sup>61</sup> Lookout House Plan L-4. Clyde Fickes *Region One Handbook Construction and Maintenance of Forest Improvement* (USDA Forest Service, Region One, Missoula, Montana 1935 revised edition).

<sup>62</sup> “Forest Fire Lookout Page,” Definitions, <https://www.firelookout.com/lktpix.html>, accessed May 14, 2025.

<sup>63</sup> “Forest Fire Lookout Page,” Definitions, <https://www.firelookout.com/lktpix.html>, accessed May 14, 2025.

<sup>64</sup> Ralph L. Hand, Assistant Chief, Division of Fire Control “History of Region 1 Lookout System,” August 23, 1954. Folder: Historical: Lookouts, Box 46, RG 95 Historical Collection, NARA Seattle.

<sup>65</sup> Erika Karuzas, Cultural Site Record Update of 24SA0158, October 7, 2016, on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana.

<sup>66</sup> Caywood, MPD, p. 8.

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National Archives and Records Administration, Seattle Washington: RG95 Records of the US Forest Service Region 1.

Region 1 Historical Collection ca 1905-1990.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Lolo National Forest



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**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Latitude: 47.604230 | Longitude: -115.070410 (center point of lookout)             |
| 2. Latitude: 47.604280 | Longitude: -115.070830 (center point of hitching rail)       |
| 3. Latitude: 47.604190 | Longitude: -115.071130 (center point of outhouse)            |
| 4. Latitude: 47.604126 | Longitude: -115.070539 (center point of Forest Service Sign) |
| 5. Latitude: 47.604230 | Longitude: -115.070770 (center point of property)            |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of this property is an arbitrary line drawn around the lookout house and associated improvements on the top of Big Hole Peak. The property is found on the Big Hole Peak 7.5' quadrangle map, SW1/4 of Section 4, Township 21N Range 27W. Reference to the aerial map on page 29 confirms this boundary.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes lookout, outhouse, hitching rail, and Forest Service sign associated with Big Hole Lookout.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Cherie Peacock  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 256 El Capitan Loop  
city or town: Stevensville state: MT zip code: 59870  
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date: December 2024

and

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organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
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city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620  
e-mail: [jboughton@mt.gov](mailto:jboughton@mt.gov)  
telephone: (406) 444-3647  
date: August 2025

Big Hole Lookout  
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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
**Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

#### Photo Log

Name of Property: Big Hole Lookout

City or Vicinity: Plains, MT

County: Missoula

State: Montana

Photographer: Cherie Peacock

Date Photographed: August 11, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

All photographs are described in the captions. Photos 1 through 7 were taken by Cherie Peacock in August of 2024. The Sketch Map (Figure 9) shows the location and vantage direction of the photos. Historic and Lolo NF file photos are included at the end of the continuation sheet.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours  
Tier 2 – 120 hours  
Tier 3 – 230 hours  
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



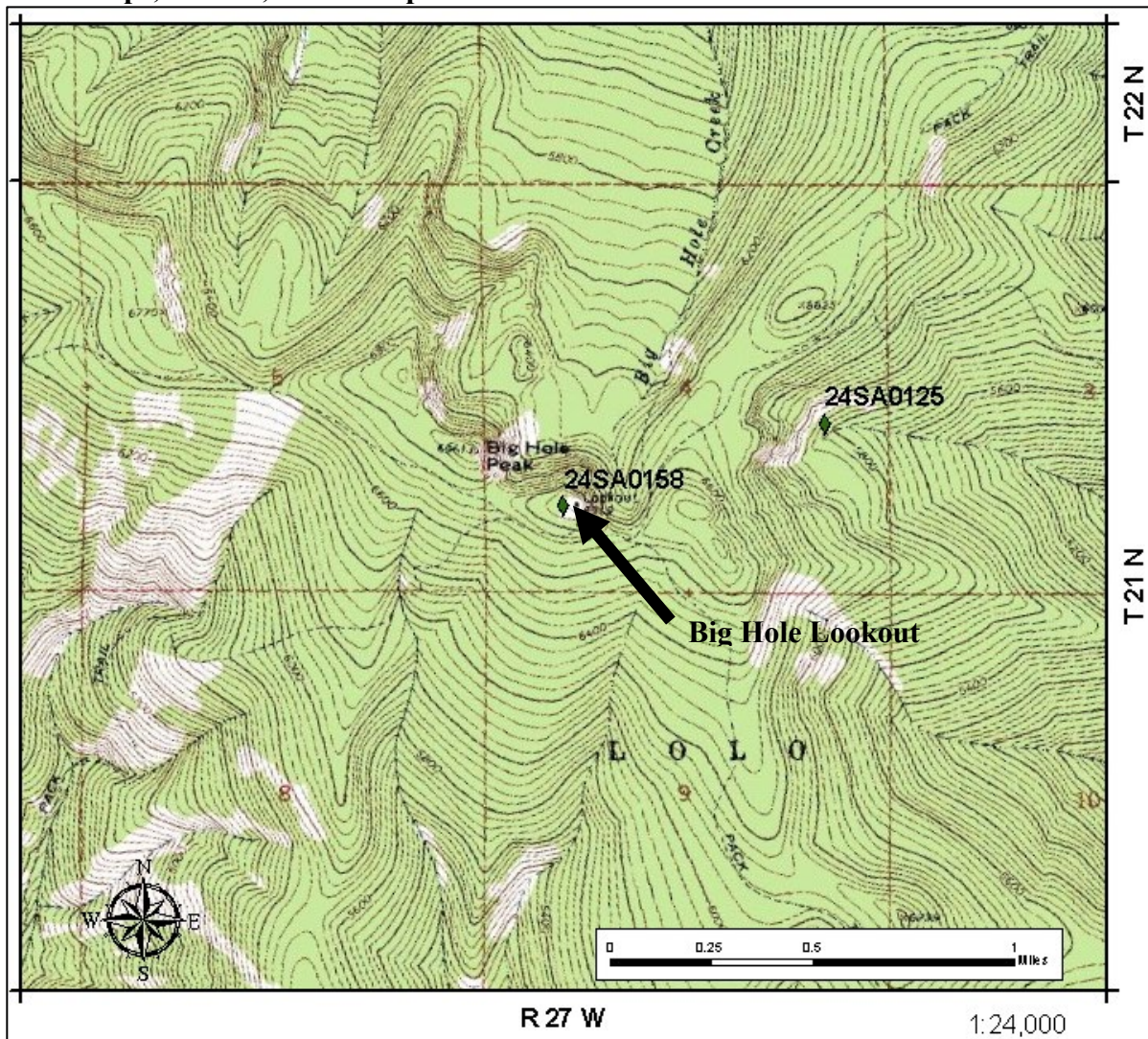
Big Hole Lookout

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### Maps, Aerials, and Floorplans



Location of Big Hole Lookout. Found on the Big Hole Peak 7.5' Quadrangle Map, SW1/4 of Section 4, Township 21N Range 27W. Center point of lookout = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070410; hitching rail = Latitude 47.604280 Longitude -115.070830; outhouse = Latitude 47.604190 Longitude -115.071130; Forest Service Sign = Latitude 47.604126 Longitude -115.070539, center point of property = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070770

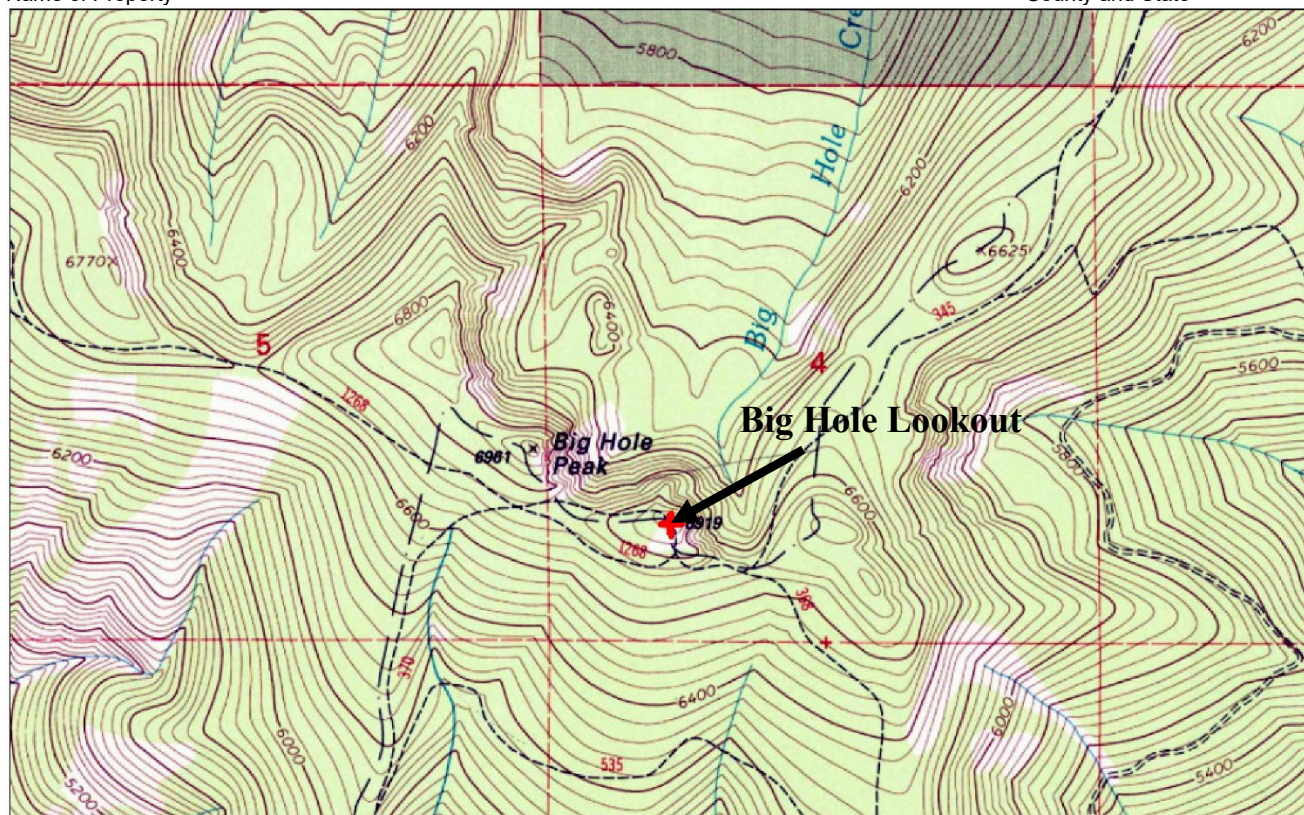


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◆◆ = approx. 1/4 mile

Map created using the Digital Atlas May 29, 2025  
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Montana State Library - Digital Library  
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**Location of Big Hole Lookout. Found on the Big Hole Peak 7.5' Quadrangle Map, SW1/4 of Section 4, Township 21N Range 27W. Center point of lookout = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070410; hitching rail = Latitude 47.604280 Longitude -115.070830; outhouse = Latitude 47.604190 Longitude -115.071130; Forest Service Sign = Latitude 47.604126 Longitude -115.070539, center point of property = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070770**



Big Hole Lookout  
Name of Property

Sanders County, Montana  
County and State



◆◆ = approx. 175 ft.

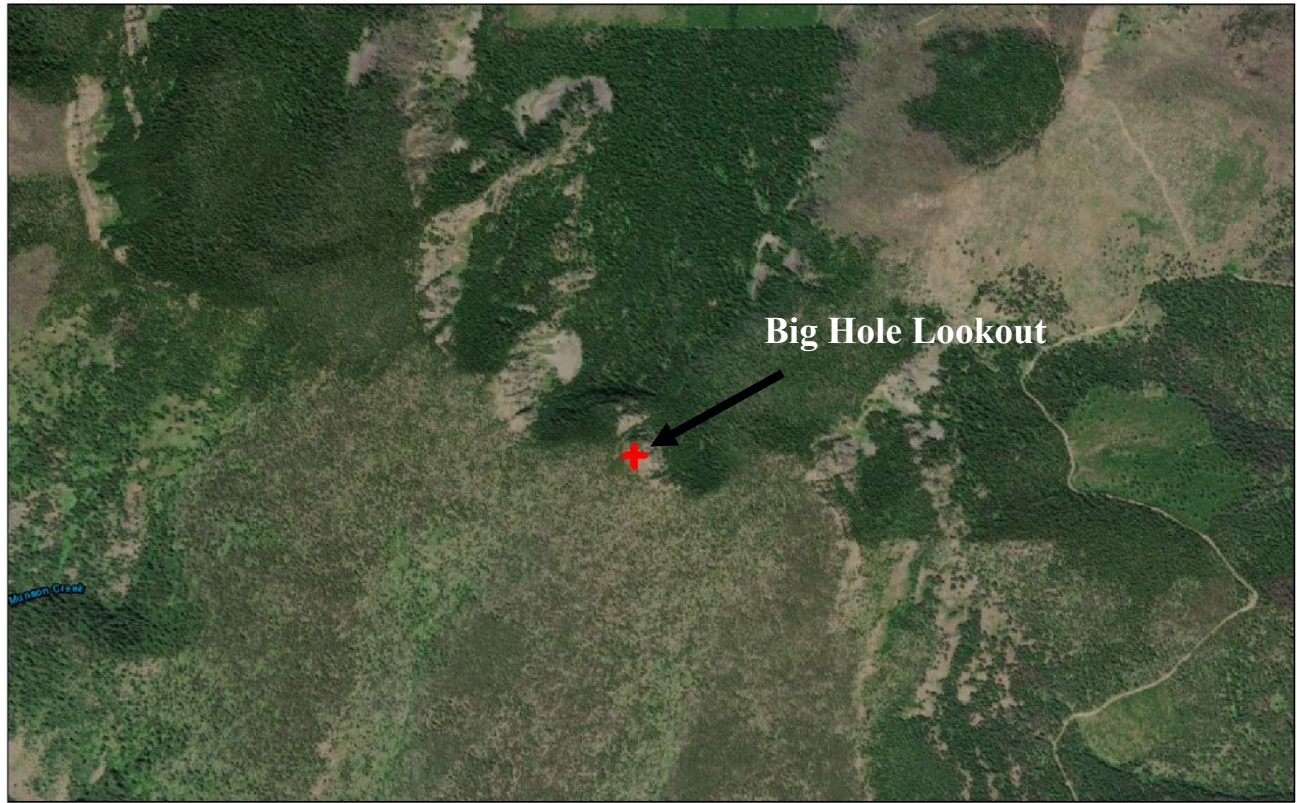
Map created using the Digital Atlas May 29, 2025  
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

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**Aerial Location of Big Hole Lookout, SW1/4 of Section 4, Township 21N Range 27W,  
Center point of lookout = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070410; hitching rail =  
Latitude 47.604280 Longitude -115.070830; outhouse = Latitude 47.604190 Longitude -  
115.071130; Forest Service Sign = Latitude 47.604126 Longitude -115.070539, center point  
of property = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070770**

Big Hole Lookout  
Name of Property

Sanders County, Montana  
County and State



◆————◆ = approx. 1500 ft.

Map created using the Digital Atlas May 29, 2025  
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

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**Aerial Location of Big Hole Lookout. Center point of lookout = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070410; hitching rail = Latitude 47.604280 Longitude -115.070830; outhouse = Latitude 47.604190 Longitude -115.071130; Forest Service Sign = Latitude 47.604126 Longitude -115.070539, center point of property = Latitude 47.604230 Longitude -115.070770**



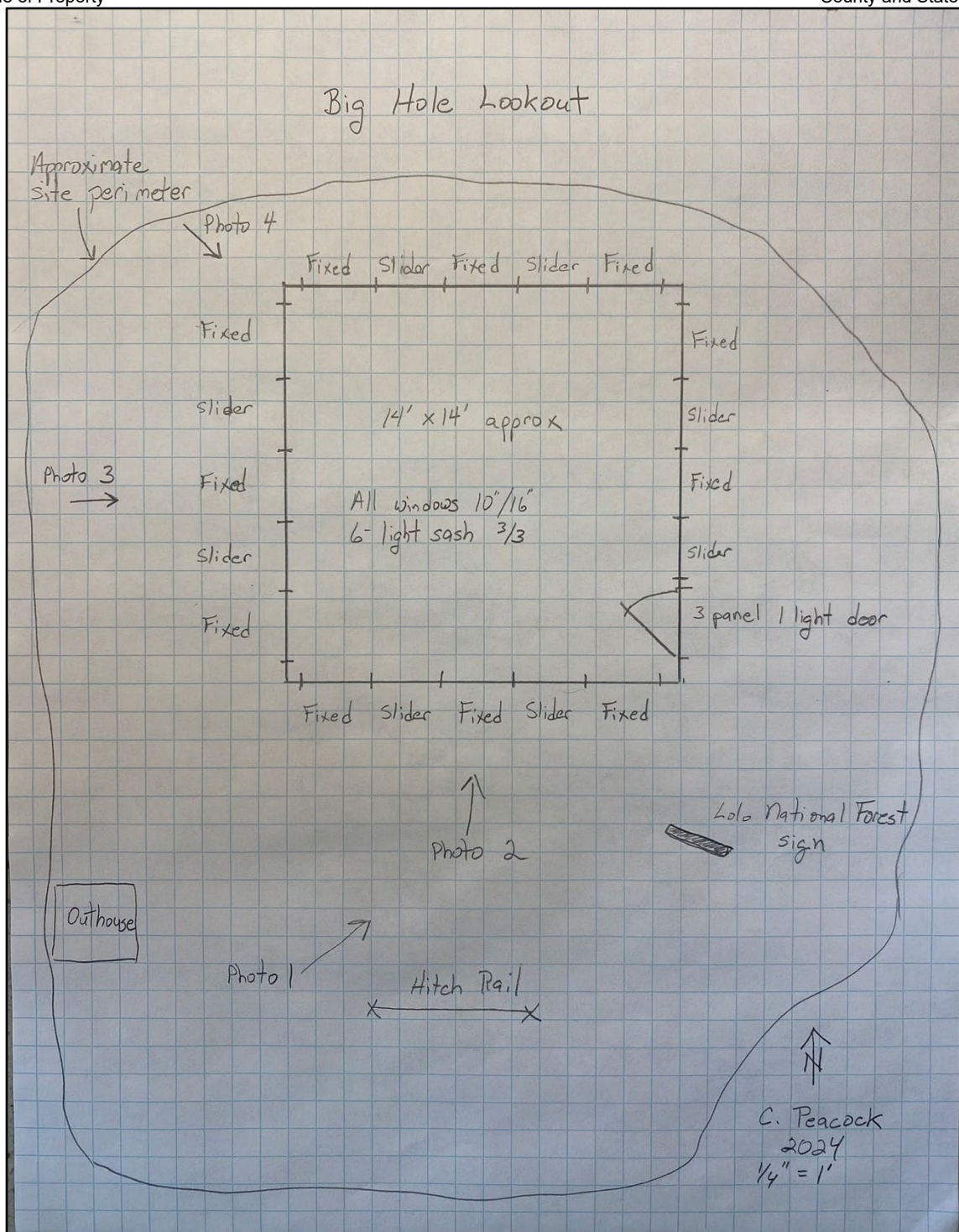


Big Hole Lookout

Name of Property

Sanders County, Montana

County and State



Floorplan of Big Hole Lookout

DRAFT



Big Hole Lookout

Name of Property

Sanders County, Montana  
County and State

**National Register Photographs (all photos)**

Name of Property: Big Hole Lookout

City or Vicinity: Plains, MT

County: Missoula

State: Montana

Photographer: Cherie Peacock

Date Photographed: August 11, 2024



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0001: west and south elevations, view to the northeast.

Big Hole Lookout  
Name of Property

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MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0002, south elevation, view to the north.



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0003, west elevation, view to the east.



Big Hole Lookout  
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MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0004, north and west elevations, view to the southeast.

Big Hole Lookout  
Name of Property

Sanders County, Montana  
County and State



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0005, interior view.



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0006, interior view.



Big Hole Lookout  
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MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0007, Big Hole Lookout on Big Hole Peak, view to the northwest.



Big Hole Lookout  
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MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0010. Big Hole Lookout, 1966. Photo by Chad Kinzel, view to the northeast.



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0011. Big Hole Lookout after restoration. Lolo NF files, view to the southeast.



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MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0012. Outhouse prior to restoration, view to the south.



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0013. Outhouse, view to the east.



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MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0014. Hitching rail, view to the north.



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0015. Forest Service Sign prior to restoration, view to the north.

Big Hole Lookout  
Name of Property

Sanders County, Montana  
County and State



MT\_SandersCounty\_BigHoleLookout\_0016. Forest Service Sign, view to the south.