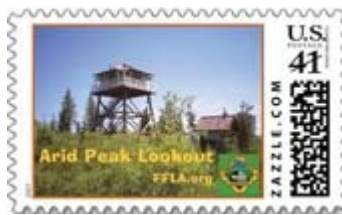



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Stamp Honors Arid Peak Lookout

By Steve Matz, Heritage Manager, Idaho Panhandle National Forests



You can now send your US Mail with an Arid Peak, Idaho, Lookout postage stamp and help save lookout towers across the United States.

Rod Fosback, of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, dreamed of having a lookout grace a postage stamp and his dream has come true. The stamp not only honors a collaborative effort to restore one of his favorite lookouts, but provides additional income for the Forest Fire Lookout Association Inc.

Arid Peak Lookout was built in the 1930s on the St. Joe National Forest in the Panhandle of Idaho and overlooks the Route of the Hiawatha Rails to Trails bicycle route. The lookout tower was constructed to spot fires started by locomotives along the Milwaukee Railroad that stretched from Chicago, Illinois to Seattle, Washington. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Lookout Register and is also available as a lookout rental (see <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/> for information on Arid Peak or <http://www.recreation.gov> for reservations).

The lookout was selected for the stamp because it represents the spirit of cooperation necessary to preserve the remaining lookout towers on Forest Service and State lands. While fire detection lookouts were relatively common in years past, advances in fire detection have led to their abandonment and destruction.

In order to preserve this unique structure, 47 volunteers spent 194 person days in 1996 and 1997 completing a major renovation and trail clearing effort. The lookout restoration was sponsored by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Forest Fire Lookout Association, Back Country Horsemen, Boy Scout Troop 444 and others.



Arid Peak Lookout stamp can be purchased at <http://www.fla.org> by clicking on "to view or order stamps." With each purchase you can help preserve the remaining fire detection towers on Forest Service and state lands.