

AGASSIZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



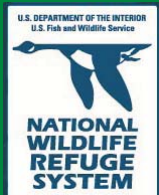
Get a bird's eye view of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge from the Headquarters lookout tower. Located in the heart of the refuge, it provides a panoramic view of the marshes and woodlands which offer some of the best wildlife viewing in the State. It is the only tower in Minnesota with the *Flying Blue Goose* displayed on the cab. Wherever you see the Blue Goose symbol you know you are on one of over 500 National Wildlife Refuges nationwide.

The tower is open 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, every Sunday in June from 1- 5 pm, and during special events. A key must be obtained at Headquarters to enter the tower. The tower is closed in winter, during inclement weather, and on holidays.

For more information on Agassiz NWR

call 218-449-4115 x0 or visit:

www.fws.gov/midwest/agassiz

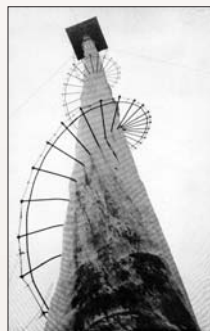


FIRE TOWER HISTORY

Forest fire towers evolved from early mountain top lookouts where rangers would watch for wildfires. During the early 1920s, these lookouts were replaced with a variety of steel structures. During the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps initiated many forestry projects, including the construction of numerous fire towers. By 1956, there were over 5,000 fire lookouts in the United States and many more in Canada.

The goal of the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) has been to document the histories of the towers. If you are interested, join the FFLA and learn more about the subject, contact the **Forest Fire Lookout Association Inc.** at: www.firelookout.org

Minnesota Fire Towers Web Site:
www.paulbunyan.net/mnfiretower



The Cook Creek Spar Tree lookout, located in Lake Quinalt, Washington, was built from a Douglas fir in 1927. The floor of the house was 179 feet from the ground. In 1955 the BIA sawed the pole down due to it decaying.



The *Elk Bath* taken by John McColgan, Alaskan Interagency Incident Management Team, August 6, 2000. Bitterroot National Forest, Sula, Montana.

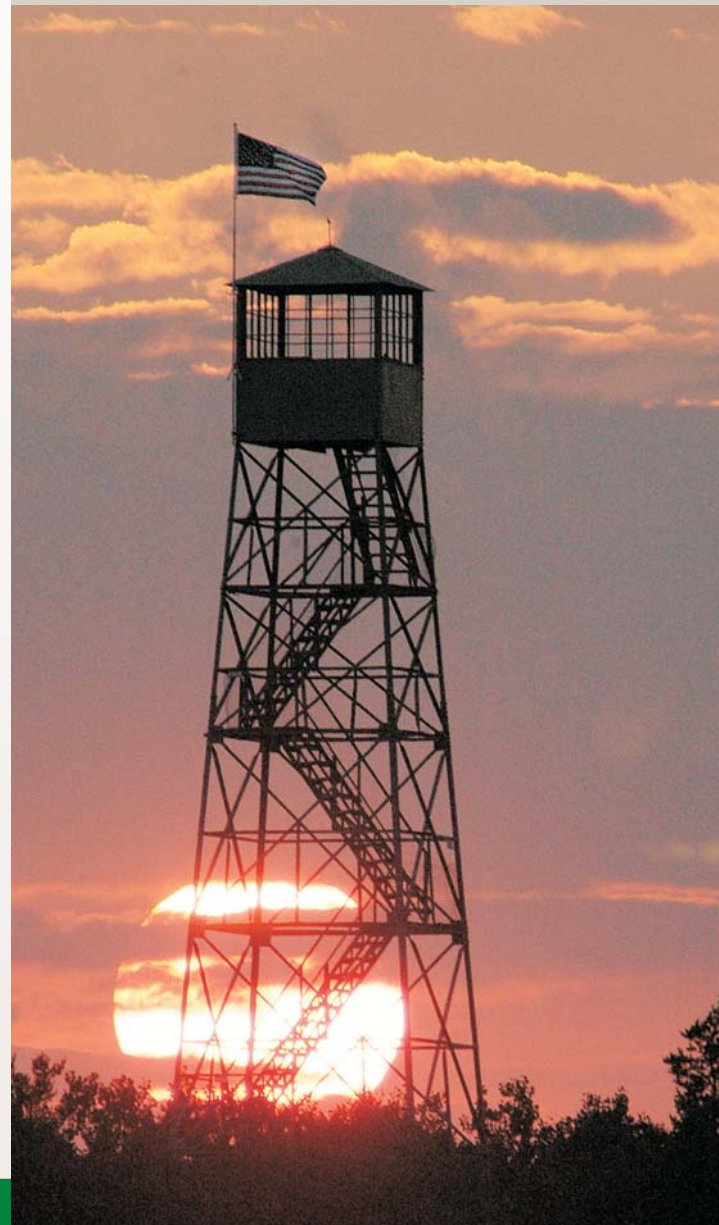


Produced in cooperation with the Forest History Center, the Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge.



Cover photo by Monte Draper.

Fire Towers



of Northern Minnesota

ITASCA STATE PARK



Itasca's Aiton Heights fire tower is open to the public during the spring, summer and fall. Interpretive signs at the site tell the story of fire towers throughout North America, as well as describe animal life living in the forest canopy. Signs at the top of the tower point out visible landscape features. For more information, call Itasca State Park at: 218-266-2100.



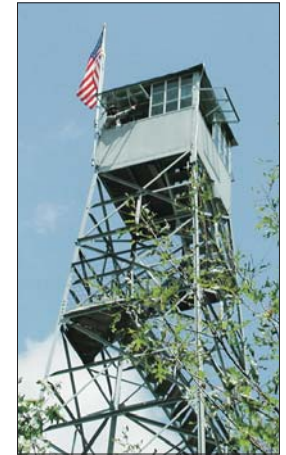
The Itasca State Park fire tower and the Forest History Center fire tower were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

FOREST HISTORY CENTER

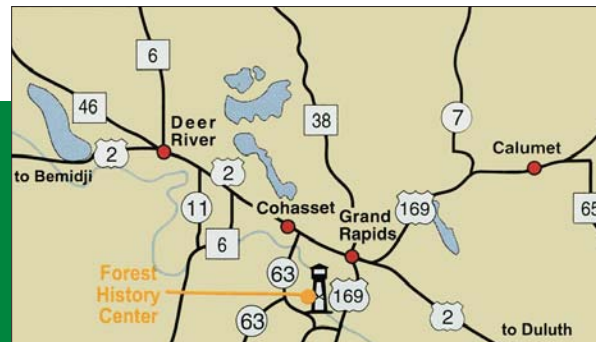
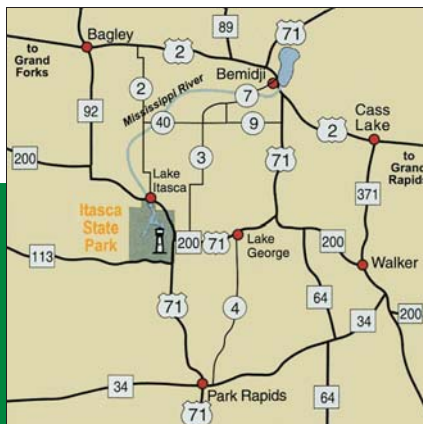
Climb the **Minnesota Historical Society's Forest History Center lookout tower**, located near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. This 1934 forest lookout tower is open to the public seven days a week from June 1st through through Labor Day. The lookout tower features an interpretive program with an in-person living history interpreter. The interpreter recreates the role of a towerman watching for smokes in the state's forests in the early 1930s. For more information you may call the Forest History Center at: 218-327-4482.



Photo by David Quam.



At the Forest History Center's tower, visitors have an opportunity to use an alidade and crossing map, spot smoke, and speak on a 1930s field telephone with a forest ranger. Each visitor receives an *Ancient and Honorable Order of Squirrels* card.



Fire tower alidade, (Fire finder) is for finding the compass bearing to the fire from the tower. With the bearings from two fire towers and a crossing map, the fire location will be known.