

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

New Mexico Chapter



2020 Year-End Report

CURRENT CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Mark Gutzman, Chapter Director

LOCAL FFLA CHAPTERS AND/OR AFFILIATES:

None at this time

MEMBERSHIP: 13

CHAPTER FUNDS BALANCE: \$530.61

PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES, AND STATUS:

New Mexico National Forests Cabin Rental Program:

As many of you may remember if you attended the 2012 Western Conference held on the Lincoln National Forest in Mayhill, NM, we were discussing the possibility of a cabin rental program with hopes of utilizing our existing lookouts and lookout complexes. Since then we have restored or rehabilitated nearly all of our lookouts for that purpose. As Arizona (part of Region-3 that includes New Mexico) already had an active and prospering rental program we wanted to emulate them. New Mexico forests were finally on their way in 2016. However, any momentum the New Mexico cabin rental Program had when the Business Plan and Charter were signed by the Forest Supervisors in 2016 was almost immediately lost and nearly five years later the process is beginning to move forward, albeit slowly.

To revive the process, a meeting of representatives from the Regional Office, the Washington Office, and the five New Mexico National Forests along with representatives from the successful Arizona cabin rental program was held in October. Some of the news was good and some was less than that. One of the strengths of the Arizona program was the ability to pool funds. By that I mean that the six Arizona Forests pooled overall income and they were able to use the funds on any of the Forests for upgrades and improvements, and to bring new rentals into the program. The Cabin Rental Board in Arizona is composed of representatives from each Forest who work collectively to determine where funds will best be spent in support of the program. The pooling of funds is no longer available and therefore each New Mexico Forests will have programs that stand or fall on their own; none of that "working together" stuff moving forward. The Santa Fe seems to be the first out of the gate, with the Aldo Leopold cabin going be for the New Mexico Recreational Advisory Committee to get a rate structure approved.

Most of the Forests in New Mexico have requested funds through the Great America Outdoors Act in order to bring Lookouts and cabins up to snuff for the rental program. We'll see if any of the requested funds are awarded.

New Mexico Lookouts, Complexes, or Cabins listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):

1. Monjeau	– 87002483	1/27/1988	Lincoln	lookout
2. Ruidoso	– 87002485	1/27/1988	Lincoln	lookout
3. Wofford	– 87002484	1/28/1988	Lincoln	complex
4. Weed	– 87002487	1/28/1988	Lincoln	lookout
5. Bluewater	– 87002486	1/28/1988	Lincoln	complex
6. Carrisa (Carrissa)	– 87002488	1/28/1988	Lincoln	complex
7. Glorieta Baldy	– 87002492	1/27/1988	Santa Fe	lookout
8. El Caso	– 87002476	1/28/1988	Gila	complex
9. Hillsboro Peak	– 87002475	1/28/1988	Gila	complex
10. Mangus Mtn.	– 87002471	1/28/1988	Gila	complex
11. Bearwallow Mtn.	– 87002473	1/28/1988	Gila	complex
12. Reeds Peak	– 87002472	1/28/1988	Gila	lookout
13. Mogollon Baldy	– 87002470	1/28/1988	Gila	cabins
14. Black Mtn.	– 87002474	1/28/1988	Gila	cabin
15. Canjilon Mtn.	– 87002456	1/28/1988	Carson	cabin “Victor Ortega”

New Mexico Lookouts by Forest and what is known regarding current status and recommendations:

Lincoln NF – Monjeau (C), Ruidoso (C) Wofford (C), Weed, Bluewater (C), Carrissa (C), James Ridge, Sacramento (C), and Dark Canyon (C).

Cibola NF – Cedro Peak, Capilla Peak, La Mosca, McGaffey, Davenport, Mount Withington, Oso Ridge, Grassy, Gallinas Peak, and San Mateo.

Santa Fe NF – Encino, Glorieta Baldy (R), Cerro Pelado (NHLR), St. Peter’s Dome (R, NHLR), Deadman, and Barillas.

Carson NF – Picuris, Kiowa, and Canjilon (R, FFLOS).

Gila NF – Eagle Peak (NHLR), Mogollon Baldy (NHLR), Fox Mountain, Mangas Mountain (R), Saddle Mountain, Reeds Peak, Lookout Mountain (NHLR), Bearwallow Mountain (NHLR), Negrito Mountain (NHLR), Black Mountain (NHLR), Hillsboro Peak, El Caso, and Signal Peak (NHLR).

R = Restoration or Rehabilitation needed, NHLR = new NHLR nomination, FFLOS = new FFLOS nomination, C = Proposed for Cabin Rental Program (some internal updates may be required to make ready for rental to couples or families)

Recommendations for evaluation and nomination can be found on the last page.

Lookouts Lincoln National Forest – Smokey Bear Ranger District:

1. **Monjeau LO #190** – Constructed in 1940, Monjeau lookout over the years went through a number of changes altering its original look. Despite these alterations, the lookout was listed on the NRHP on 27 January 1988. In November of 2004 Monjeau was restored to its original design. Eight years later in 2012, Monjeau suffered a burn-over in the Little Bear Fire and once again was restored with a partial reconstruction (see story in Lookout Network Vol. 23, No. 3) through an SBA 8(a) contract. When the work was completed a plaque showing its National Register listing was installed.

Monjeau is our most visited lookout, and one of the two lookouts on the Lincoln that is operated during fire season every year. The observer cabin below the lookout is being considered for inclusion in the NM Cabin Rental Program. Monjeau has, over the years, utilized both contract and Forest Service observers.

Excellent Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnle3Aoj1bU>



Monjeau Lookout 25 September 2016.

Photo by Mark Gutzman USFS

2. **Ruidoso LO #191** – One of only two Aermotor MI-25 lookouts in the southwest region (the other is Mogollon Baldy on the Gila NF), Ruidoso was constructed in 1940, and is currently used as the auxiliary lookout when Monjeau becomes out of service such as during the 2012 Little Bear Fire. As New Mexico is working through the process of establishment and management of a cabin rental program, the Lincoln has decided that the Ruidoso Lookout will be our proposed first offering. A grant has been initiated through the “Great American Outdoors Act” to upgrade the interior design layout to perform both as an active fire lookout during fire season if required and a cabin for rent that can accommodate a live-in couple.

Ruidoso Lookout sits upon a cliff face directly above the main street of the resort town of Ruidoso (Sudderth Dr.). Over the years since its erection, the town of Ruidoso has grown around it 360 degrees. The lookout will be perfect as a rental as it is close to shopping, restaurants, and sits adjacent to Cree Meadows golf course established in 1947. Today, only Ruidoso Lookout and Monjeau Lookout cover Lincoln County for fire detection.

Ruidoso Lookout was listed on the NRHP on 27 January 1988.

Youtube drone video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otYdECB7UTO>



Ruidoso Lookout 5 November 2012.

Photo by Mark Gutzman USFS

Lookouts Lincoln National Forest – Sacramento Ranger District:

3. **Wofford LO Complex #1105** – Located on the Sacramento Ranger District, the Aermotor MC-39 steel tower is 80 feet high with a 7X7 foot steel cab. It was erected in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In addition to the lookout, the complex includes a wood frame cabin (1933) and storage shed (1937). In the mid-80s when observation overflights were instituted, Wofford was neglected, and the public vandalized the complex to a great extent. 2012 photos show the cab interior as completely destroyed including all the window frames, and the cabin and shed was boarded up and rodents had taken up residence. In addition, the cabin had a hole in the roof where someone had dropped a large rock from the lookout cab. In February 2012 restoration began on the Wofford complex, with completion that same year. Not only was the complex restored, but the interior of both the cabin and shed were rehabilitated for cabin rental.

Wofford Lookout Complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Wofford Complex during restoration in 2014.

Photo by Mark Gutzman USFS



Wofford Lookout Cab before restoration.



Wofford Lookout Cab after restoration.



4. **Weed LO #1107** – The Weed Lookout is an Aermotor LX-24 located on the Sacramento Ranger District and was erected in 1926. The Weed lookout is the oldest standing lookout on the Lincoln National Forest. The tower is 48 feet high and is topped by a 7X7 foot steel cab. The tower originally had wooden steps but were replaced by metal ones in 1966. The site did contain a cabin and shed, but these were removed in 1978.

The Weed lookout is a “standby” tower and used to supplement observations during wildfires. While there are a few panes missing do to being shot out, the tower is otherwise in great condition. Missing panes have been measured for replacement.

Weed Lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Weed Lookout 5 May 2012.

Photo by Mark Gutzman

5. **Bluewater LO Complex #1106** – The Bluewater Lookout Complex is located on the Sacramento Ranger District. Forest Service records indicate that this lookout was built in 1917 for the US Weather Bureau and sold to the USFS for erection at its current site in 1937. Bluewater is 45 feet high and topped by a 7X7 foot Aermotor LX-24 steel cab. Along with the lookout, the complex includes a wood framed cabin and shed. The cabin and shed were restored in 2013. Bluewater Lookout Complex is on the Lincoln National Forest list as a proposed cabin rental property.

Bluewater Lookout Complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Bluewater Lookout 19 November 2009.

USFS Photo



Bluewater Observer's Cabin after restoration 17 January 2014.

Photo by Mark Gutzman



Bluewater National Register Plaque before exterior paint. Photo by Mark Gutzman

6. **Carrissa LO Complex #940** – Carrissa Lookout Complex, located on the Sacramento Ranger District, contains an 80-foot Aermotor MC-39 steel tower with 7'x7' steel cab along with Observer's Cabin and tool shed. The complex was constructed in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps during a period from 1912 through 1945 when architecture was intended to reflect the ethic of the land conservation movement. Carrissa, which was mistakenly spelled "Carissa" for the National Register nomination, was the Lincoln National Forest's first restoration and rehabilitation project for the proposed future cabin rental program.

Restoration and rehabilitation began in 2010 and was completed in 2012. The site's porta-potty style vault toilet was replaced with an ADA accessible toilet that matches the style of the cabin and shed.

Carrissa (Carissa) Lookout Complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Carrissa Lookout Complex 10 February 2012.

Photo by Mark Gutzman

7. **James Ridge LO #1110** – James Ridge Lookout (formerly the Mayhill Lookout) is located on the Sacramento Ranger District. The tower is an Aermotor LX-24 type that was remodeled when it was moved from its former Mayhill location, installing metal stair treads and a partial catwalk. The tower is 62 feet high with a 7X7 foot cab. The lookout was moved to James Ridge in 1967 and was therefore not eligible for National Register listing during the 1988 thematic nomination. James Ridge has now been in its current location now for 53 years and is being nominated as an addendum to the 1988 thematic nomination “Lookouts in the Southwestern Region.”

James Ridge is manned annually by a volunteer and is the lookout for the area around the resort village of Cloudcroft, NM.



James Ridge Lookout 6 February 2012.

Photo by Mark Gutzman USFS

8. **Sacramento LO #1109** - Located on the Sacramento Ranger District, this 67 feet high steel tower has a 14X14 foot CL100 series steel cab. It was erected in 1968 to replace an Aermotor LX-24 built in 1925 which was destroyed by fire in 1967. Sacramento Lookout stayed in operation from 1968 until 2010 when it was designated as a standby lookout. Sacramento Lookout's interior will be slightly modified to accommodate a regular or queen size bed so it can be included in the cabin rental program. The view from Sacramento Lookout across Fort Bliss' McGregor Range and on toward El Paso, TX is magnificent.

Sacramento was not eligible for inclusion on the National Register in 1988 but is now 52 years old and will be nominated as an addendum to the 1988 thematic nomination.

Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zZoreeGxLw> 30 June 2017.



Sacramento Lookout 29 May 2012.

USFS Photo

Lookouts Lincoln National Forest – Guadalupe Ranger District:

9. **Dark Canyon LO Complex #1108** – Located on the Guadalupe Ranger District, the Dark Canyon lookout complex consists of a 48-foot-high steel tower (Aermotor), with a steel 7X7-foot International Derrick cab designated as a type Aermotor MC-99 fire tower. Erected in 1948, it is one of only two Aermotor MC-99's that still stand in the U.S Forest Service's Southwestern Region (R3), with the other being the Dry Park lookout on the Kaibab National Forest, Arizona. The complex includes an associated observer's cabin, cistern and tool storage shed which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in late 1939.

Dark Canyon Lookout Complex is used for fire detection on an as needed basis and will be included in the cabin rental program when up and running.

Only 40 years old at the time of the 1988 thematic National Register nomination, the complex was not eligible. Now at 72 years of age, the Dark Canyon Complex has been nominated to the National Register and is in the final transmittal process for listing.

Youtube video with lookout at 7:50: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCh48rSUFL0> 3 August 2020.



Dark Canyon Lookout Complex 28 September 2012.

Photo by Mark Gutzman USFS

Lookouts Cibola National Forest – Mountainair Ranger District:

10. **Capilla Peak LO #695** – Capilla Peak lookout was erected in 1960 and is a 12' X 12' CL 100 series cab with a catwalk, mounted on a 10' square concrete block base.

Capilla Peak was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination "Lookouts of the Southwest Region" in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. Capilla is now 60 years old and should be re-evaluated and nominated if eligible.



Capilla Peak Lookout.

Photo by David Lorenz

11. **Gallinas Peak LO Complex #694** – Gallinas Peak Lookout was erected in 1933 and is a 7'x7' MC-39 cab on a 46' steel tower. The complex also contains an Observer's Cabin and Tool Storage Shed. Gallinas Peak was originally part of the Lincoln NF and was erected by it. It was later transferred to the Cibola NF and the Mountainair Ranger District.

Gallinas Peak was not evaluated for some reason during the 1988 thematic National Register nomination. Gallinas Peak Lookout Complex is now 87 years old and should be evaluated and nominated if eligible.



Gallinas Peak Lookout Complex circa 2007.

USFS Photo

Lookouts Cibola National Forest – Magdalena Ranger District:

12. **Mount Withington LO #669** – Mount Withington lookout was erected in 1952 and is an R3 special design utilizing a 14' x 14' cab with wooden catwalk, mounted on a 10' concrete block base. Unlike the CL-100 series which has a flat roof, Mount Withington sports a slightly sloped gable.

Mount Withington was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination “Lookouts of the Southwest Region” in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. Mount Withington is now 68 years old and should be re-evaluated and nominated if eligible.



Mount Withington Lookout.

Photo by David Lorenz



13. **Davenport LO #666** – Built in 1954, the Davenport Lookout is a 14'x14' cab floor plan of USFS R-3 CL-100 series design on top of a 10-foot-high concrete block base. The wooden catwalk was added several years later. The slightly sloped gable roof is mounted on three rafters supporting a 2' permanent overhang.

Davenport Lookout was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination "Lookouts of the Southwest Region" in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. Davenport is now 66 years old and should be re-evaluated and nominated if eligible.



Davenport Lookout circa 2006.

Photo by David Lorenz

14. **Grassy LO #667** – Constructed in 1960, Grassy Lookout represents a USFS R-3 CL-100 series type. The steel cab's floor plan measures 14'x14' and sits on a 10-foot-high concrete block base.

Grassy Lookout was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination "Lookouts of the Southwest Region" in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. Grassy is now 50 years old and should be re-evaluated and nominated if eligible.



Grassy Lookout circa 2006.

Photo by Dave Lorenz

15. **San Mateo Lookout Complex #668** – Reached by a five-mile trail and currently on standby status, San Mateo Lookout is the oldest detection facility remaining on the Magdalena Ranger District being erected in 1934. It is a 59'3" Aermotor LX-25 tower with 7'x7' metal cab and is one of the last remaining example in the U.S. of the platform style ladder/stairs.

San Mateo was not evaluated for some reason during the 1988 thematic National Register nomination so San Mateo Lookout Complex, now 86 years old, should be evaluated and nominated if eligible.



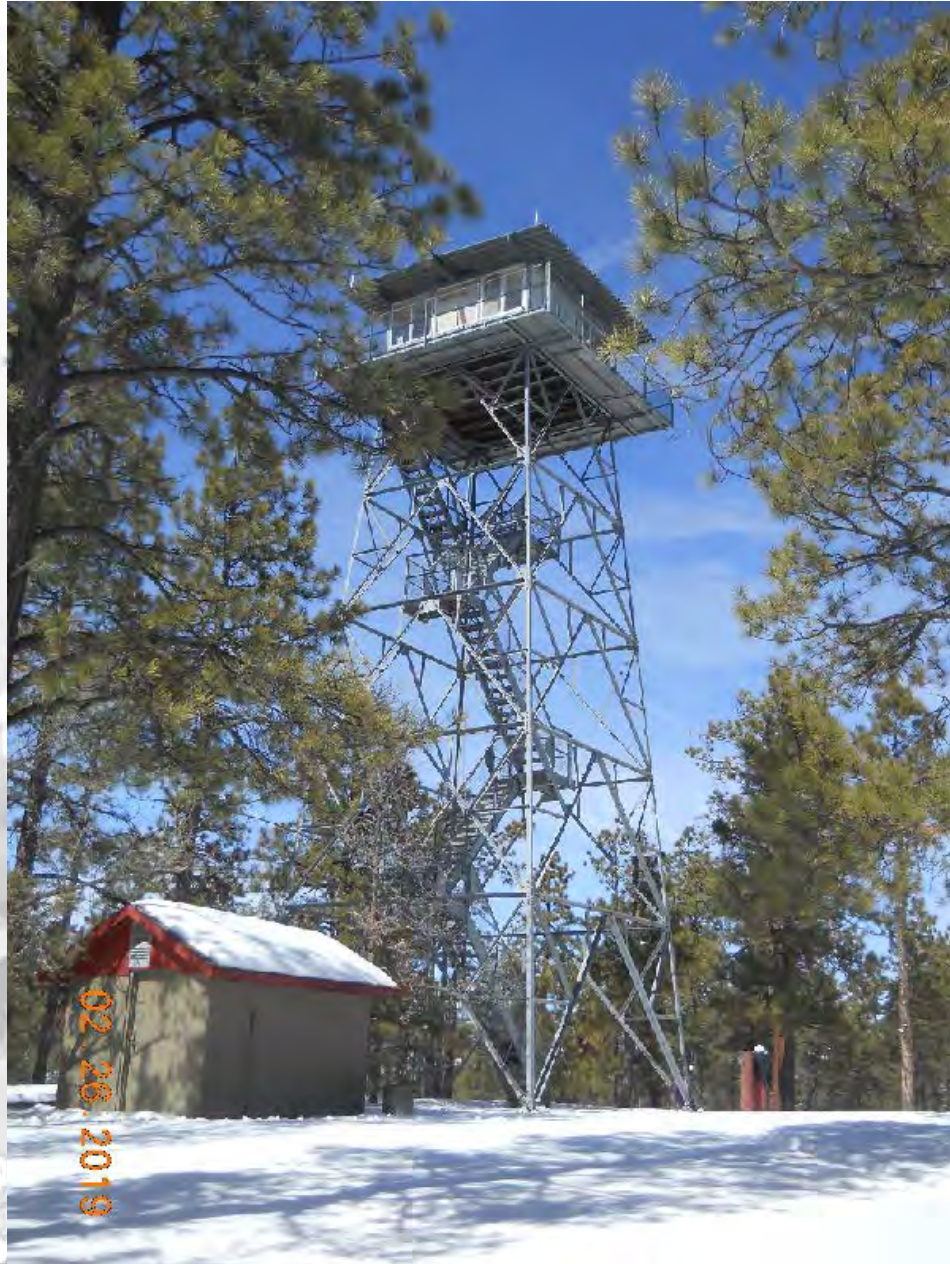
San Mateo Lookout Complex circa 2006.

USFS Photo

Lookouts Cibola National Forest – Mt. Taylor Ranger District:

16. **McGaffey LO Complex #636** – McGaffey lookout was erected in 1965 is a metal 14' x 14' CL-100 cab atop a 54' steel tower. In addition to the lookout tower, there is a tool storage shed and a vault toilet.

McGaffey lookout was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination "Lookouts of the Southwest Region" in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. McGaffey is now 55 years old and has been re-evaluated as eligible for nomination.



McGaffey Lookout on 26 February 2019.

USFS Photo

17. **La Mosca LO #634** – Located on a 11,036' mountain top, La Mosca Lookout on the Cibola National Forest is a CL-100 series 14'x14' metal cab with a steel catwalk and corrugated metal roofing. The lookout sits on a 10' concrete block base and was built in the 1960s.

La Mosca was not evaluated for some reason during the 1988 thematic nomination. As there is no exact date known for the construction other than 1960s, a construction date of 1970 will be used to establish eligibility for the National Register. That being said, La Mosca Lookout is now at least 50 years old and should be evaluated for the National Register.



La Mosca Lookout. Photo date unknown.

Photographer unknown

18. **Oso Ridge LO Complex #635** – Constructed in 1965, Oso Ridge Lookout represents a USFS R-3 CL-100 series type. The steel cab's floor plan measures 14'x14' and sits on a 10-foot-high concrete block base.

Oso Ridge Lookout was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination "Lookouts of the Southwest Region" in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. Oso Ridge is now 55 years old and should be re-evaluated and nominated if eligible.



Oso Ridge Lookout circa 2005.

USFS Photo



Lookouts Cibola National Forest – Sandia Ranger District:

19. **Cedro Peak LO #684** – In 1969 AT&T located a large transmission tower on the site of two previous lookouts. The present 14'x14' metal CL-100 series cab was placed on the roof of the electronics building adjacent to the transmission tower.

Cedro Peak lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to age (only 19 years old). The evaluation also typed this lookout as a MC-39-AE, and as an MC-39 is a 7'x7' cab this is a mistake. Now that Cedro Peak Lookout is 51 years old, it should be re-evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



Cedro Peak Lookout in 1988.

USFS Photo



Lookouts Carson National Forest – Canjilon Ranger District:

20. **Canjilon LO Cabin #pending** – The Canjilon Lookout site no longer has a lookout tower. It had a wooden tower with a platform that was abandoned in 1922 after several lightning strikes occurred, one of which killed the lookout guard in front of his family. The Canjilon District was established in 1909 and the lookout tower was constructed shortly after that date. The lookout’s Observer’s Cabin remains at the site and is the oldest surviving structure in the Southwestern Region related to forest fire detection.

Canjilon lookout Cabin was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination “Lookouts of the Southwest Region” in 1988, was found eligible and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As the oldest fire detection structure remaining in the Southwest Region of the Forest Service, Canjilon Lookout Cabin should be evaluated for restoration and then restored.



National Register listed Canjilon Observer's Cabin.

USFS Photo



Lookouts Carson National Forest – Peñasco Ranger District:

21. **Picuris LO #1121** – Picuris Lookout is a ground cab lookout that was regularly staffed through 1990. It has been used occasionally during times of extreme fire danger. This L-4 type lookout house was constructed between 1928 and 1932. Taking the latest date, the lookout is at least 88 years old.

Picuris was evaluated during the thematic nomination “Lookouts of the Southwest Region” in 1988 and was recommended to be ineligible stating that it did not retain its “original integrity of design, construction, workmanship and materials.” However, as an Archaeologist who writes National Register nominations I disagree with their analysis and believe that the lookout should be re-evaluated and if considered eligible be nominated.



Picuris Lookout circa

USFS Photo



Lookouts Carson National Forest – El Rito Ranger District:

22. **Kiowa LO Complex #196** – Kiowa Lookout was erected in 1923. The lookout is an Aermotor tower with an LL-25 cab and is one of only two remaining the Southwestern Region. The Observer's Cabin was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935. The description of the lookout when placed on the FFLA registry (1996) states that the lookout tower is still in active use.

Kiowa Lookout Complex was evaluated during the thematic nomination "Lookouts of the Southwest Region" in 1988 and it was determined that they did not have enough information to make a recommendation of eligibility. The Kiowa Lookout Cabin is now 85 years old and the lookout is 97 years old should be re-evaluated and nominated if eligible.



Kiowa Lookout Complex circa 1996.

USFS Photo

Lookouts Gila National Forest – Reserve Ranger District:

23. **Eagle Peak LO #pending** – Located on the Reserve Ranger District, this USDA Forest Service Standard Plan CL-100 to CL-106 series type was built in 1955. The steel cab is 14'x14' and sits on a concrete blockhouse base 10 feet high. Eagle Peak is staffed by seasonal FS employees.

Eagle Peak Lookout was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination “Lookouts of the Southwest Region” in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. Eagle Peak is now 65 years old and should be re-evaluated and nominated if determined eligible.



Eagle Peak Lookout on 24 May 2007.

Photo by Scott Surgent

24. **Negrito Mountain LO #pending** – Located on the Reserve Ranger District of the Gila National Forest, this Aermotor MC-24, steel tower is 30 feet high with a 12'x12' wood cab and was erected in 1934. The lookout was extensively remodeled in 1984, with new windows, new steel siding and a new roof. Negrito Mountain Lookout is not currently staffed.

The lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to the loss of integrity of original design, construction, materials, and workmanship. In its current configuration, the lookout will not become eligible for nomination until 2034.



Negrito Mountain Lookout 20 June 2010.



Lookouts Gila National Forest – Wilderness Ranger District:

25. **Reeds Peak LO #654** – Reeds Peak Lookout is a 48' Aermotor tower with an LX-24 7'x7' metal cab. What is unique to this tower is the outside metal ladder is still intact but is no longer in use because metal stairs were added in 1965. It is reached by a 12-mile trail into the Leopold Wilderness.

Reeds Peak Lookout was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination "Lookouts of the Southwest Region" in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to the modification of the stairs being added in 1965. Reeds Peak has now existed in its new configuration for 55 years so should be re-evaluated and nominated if determined eligible. The 1925 Observer's Cabin was found eligible and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Reeds Peak Lookout.

Photo by Dave Lorenz

26. **Mogollon Baldy #pending** – This lookout is of the type Aermotor MI-25, a 30’ steel tower with a wooden 14’x14’ cab. Mogollon Baldy was erected in 1948 replacing previous towers on the same location. The Observer’s Cabin was constructed in 1923. The lookout is currently actively staffed.

Mogollon Baldy Lookout Complex was evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP under the thematic nomination “Lookouts of the Southwest Region” in 1988 but was not eligible at that time due to its age. It has now existed on the site for 72 years and has been found eligible, so should be nominated as soon as possible. The 1923 Observer’s Cabin was found eligible and is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Drone image of Mogollon Baldy Lookout Complex.

Photo credit unknown

Lookouts Gila National Forest – Quemado Ranger District:

27. **Mangas Mountain LO Complex #652** – Mangas Lookout and Cabin on the Apache National Forest was constructed in 1934. It is a 31.6' Aermotor MC-24 tower with a 12'x12' wooden R3 low sill cab without catwalk. The Apache National Forest was established by the U.S. Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico on July 1, 1908, with 1,302,711 acres from portions of Black Mesa National Forest. In 1974 the entire forest was administratively combined with Sitgreaves National Forest to create Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

Mangas Mountain Lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Mangas Mountain Lookout 8 April 2019.



28. **Fox Mountain LO #650** – The Fox Mountain Lookout on the Gila National Forest was built in 1959. It is a USDA Forest Service Standard Plan CL-100 to CL-106 series type metal 14'x14' flattop with metal catwalk on a 10' concrete block base with storage room.

Fox Mountain Lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to age (only 29 years old). Now that Fox Mountain Lookout is 61 years old, it should be re-evaluated and if eligible nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.



Fox Mountain Lookout staffed seasonally.

29. **El Caso LO #649** – The El Caso Lookout Complex is located in the Gila National Forest north of Apache Creek, New Mexico. Built in 1934 by the Works Progress Administration, the complex was one of three New Deal-era forest fire lookouts built in Catron County. It was once one of the best examples of an Aermotor MC-24 tower in the southwest. The 31.6' tower has a restored R3 12'x12' cab with low sills characteristic of the region.

El Caso has been neglected and needs serious restoration to bring it back to its National Register condition. El Caso is definitely not staffed.

El Caso Lookout and its ground house are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



El Caso Lookout abandoned. Photo taken 20 June 2019. Photo by Valerie Norton

Lookouts Gila National Forest – Black Range Ranger District:

30. **Black Mountain LO Complex #pending** – This 30' high Aermotor MC-24 with wooden 12'x12' wooden cab was erected in 1934. In 1978 all of the original windows were replaced. This action caused the lookout to be not eligible when evaluated during the 1988 thematic nomination as the starting date would have been 1978 and the lookout would have only been 10 years old at the time for eligibility purposes. If the original style windows were to be replaced through a restoration project, then the 1938 original erection date could be used, and the lookout would then become eligible. (Note: The Monjeau Lookout had its windows replace during the 1960s, and yet it was found to be eligible and listed, so I don't know why this lookout would be any different. Monjeau did have the windows restored to the original style in 2010 and subsequently again in 2012 after the Little Bear fire.) The Observer's Cabin was built in 1925 and retained its integrity and was determined eligible in the 1988 nomination and subsequently listed. Black Mountain is actively staffed.

It is recommended that this lookout be re-evaluated and nominated as it is using the 1934 date or restore the windows and nominate. The lookout is 86 years old based on the 1934 date of original construction.



Black Mountain Lookout.

USFS Photo

31. **Lookout Mountain LO #pending** – This 30' high MC24 Aermotor steel tower was erected in 1933. The original 12'x12' wooden cab was replaced by a USDA Forest Service Standard Plan CL-100 to CL-106 series type 14'x14' steel cab in 1965. The lookout is actively staffed.

The lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to the loss of integrity of original design, construction, materials, and workmanship. In its current configuration, the lookout should be re-evaluated as it is now 55 years old and nominated if eligible.



Lookout Mountain Lookout.

USFS Photo

32. **Hillsboro Peak LO Complex #651** – Erected in 1933 the 45' Aermotor MC-40 lookout tower with 7'x7' metal cab sits on a site with the original 1925 log Observer's Cabin, and a modern metal quarters erected in 1965.

Both the lookout and the log cabin were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.



The Hillsboro Lookout Complex on 31 August 2007.



Lookouts Gila National Forest – Glenwood Ranger District:

33. **Bearwallow Mountain LO Complex #pending** – Erected in 1923, Bearwallow Mountain Lookout is an Aermotor LX-24, a 35' steel tower with a 7'x7' wooden cab. The lookout was extensively remodeled in 1984 with the replacement of its original windows, the addition of new stairs, and the covering of the exterior walls and roof with steel. Bearwallow Mountain is currently staffed.

The lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to the loss of integrity of original design, construction, materials, and workmanship. In its current configuration, the lookout will not become eligible for nomination until 2034. The upper log Observer's Cabin was built in 1923, and the lower cabin (formerly a barn) built in 1940, retain their integrity and were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.



Bearwallow Mountain Lookout Complex.

Photographer unknown

34. **Saddle Mountain LO #653** – Erected in 1933 as an MC-24 but modified in 1966 with the cab replaced by a USDA Forest service Standard Plan CL-100 to CL-106 steel 14'x14' series type.

The lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to the loss of integrity of original design, construction, materials, and workmanship. In its current configuration, the lookout should be re-evaluated as it is now 54 years old.



Saddle Mountain Lookout.
Lorenz

Photo Dave

Lookouts Santa Fe National Forest – Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District:

35. **Barillas LO #708** – The Barillas Lookout was erected in 1959 and is a 54' Aermotor tower with a USDA Forest Service Standard Plan CL-100 to CL-106 series type steel 14'x14' live-in cab with a catwalk.

Barillas Lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to age (only 29 years old). Now that Barillas Lookout is 61 years old, it should be re-evaluated and if eligible nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Facebook Video of Barillas Lookout with the Milky Way passing by: <https://no.facebook.com/santafeNF/videos/milky-way-and-barillas-lookout/2157204641208611/>



Barillas Lookout.

Photo by Dave Lorenz

36. **Glorieta Baldy LO #709** – Glorieta Baldy is an MC-24 erected in 1940 and was once considered one of the best remaining examples of this type in the southwest region. The Santa Fe discontinued regular staffing by 1989 and the lookout became heavily vandalized.

In 2017 the Friends of the Santa Fe National Forest began the process of restoring the lookout to the 1999 standard which was the time of its last usage as a fire detection lookout. I have no updates on the progress of this project (see 2017 New Mexico Chapter Report).

Glorieta Baldy is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Glorieta Baldy in 2017.

Photo provided by Bill Zunkel



Lookouts Santa Fe National Forest – Jemez Ranger District:

37. **Cerro Pelado LO #pending** – Cerro Pelado is a USDA Forest Service Standard Plan CL-100 to CL-106 series type metal 14'x14' flattop with metal catwalk on a 10' cinder block base with storage room constructed in 1965 replacing an 1932 L-4 ground house.

Cerro Pelado Lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to age (only 29 years old). Now that Cerro Pelado Lookout is 55 years old, it should be re-evaluated and if eligible nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.



Cerro Pelado Lookout in 2010.

Courtesy of Janie O'Rourke



38. **ST. Peter's Dome LO, aka Dome LO #pending** – Dome Lookout is a USDA Forest Service Standard Plan CL-100 to CL-106 series type metal 14'x14' R6 flattop with metal catwalk on a 10' cinder block base with storage room constructed in 1965 replacing a 1932 L-4 ground house. Dome is currently un-staffed and is being utilized as a communications site due to the Dome fire in 1996, vandalism, and a re-burn by the Las Conchas Fire in 2001. For more details see Barbara Zinn's "Fire Lookout History of the Santa Fe National Forest" (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd542352.pdf).

Cerro Pelado Lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to age (only 29 years old). Now that Cerro Pelado Lookout is 55 years old, it should be re-evaluated and if eligible nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.



St. Peter's Dome Lookout in 2014.

Photo by Barbara Zinn

Lookouts Santa Fe National Forest – Coyote Ranger District:

39. **Encino LO Complex #1111** – Encino Lookout is an Aermotor MC-39 steel tower 59 feet high with a 7'x7' steel cab stamped "USFS Grand Canyon AZ." The lookout was originally erected in 1929 or 1933 at Skinner Ridge on the Kaibab National Forest and was still standing there in 1941 according to Barbara Zinn's document. The Santa Fe National Forest obtained the tower in 1948 and it was erected on site July 1950. The Cerro Valdez L-4 Lookout and its log cabin were moved to the Encino site in the fall of 1949. Encino is currently the only lookout on the Coyote Ranger District and is currently staffed.

The Encino Complex was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to move of the L-4 and log cabins being moved from the Cerro Valdez location, and the Lookout was not yet 50 years old on site. Now that Encino lookout and the complex is 70 years old, it should be re-evaluated and if eligible nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.



Encino Lookout.

USFS Photo

Lookouts Santa Fe National Forest – Cuba Ranger District:

40. **Deadman LO #1010** – In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps erected a 30' Aermotor MC-24 tower with a 12'x12' wooden cab.

“In 1963 the Forest approved renovation of Deadman under the Accelerated Public Works Program, and the tower was rebuilt in the mid-1960s. The latest renovation took place in 2002 when a contractor built a new steel cabin Española. Modeled after the earlier wooden cab, it was trucked to the site and installed on the tower by crane (Zinn, 2017).

Deadman Lookout is currently staffed and is the only lookout on the Cuba Ranger District.

The lookout was evaluated for the 1988 thematic National Register nomination and was found not eligible due to the loss of integrity of original design, construction, materials, and workmanship. In its current configuration, the lookout will not become eligible for nomination until 2052.



Deadman Lookout in 2014.

Photo by Barbara Zinn

Current Statistics for New Mexico Lookouts:

On the five New Mexico National Forests, there are thirty-nine (39) standing lookouts as follows:

	<u>NRHP</u>	<u>Staffed Regularly</u>
Lincoln National Forest –		
Monjeau –	listed	Y
Ruidoso –	listed	N
Wofford –	listed	N
Weed –	listed	N
Bluewater –	listed	N
Carrissa –	listed	N
James Ridge –	in process	Y
Sacramento –	in process	N
Dark Canyon –	pending	N
Cibola National Forest –		
Capilla Peak –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Gallinas Peak –	nominate	N
Mount Withington –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Davenport –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Grassy –	evaluate and nominate	Y
San Mateo –	evaluate and nominate	N
McGaffey –	nominate	Y
La Mosca –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Oso Ridge –	evaluate and nominate	N
Cedro Peak –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Carson National Forest –		
Picuris –	evaluate and nominate	N
Kiowa –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Gila National Forest –		
Eagle Peak –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Negrito Mountain –	not eligible	N
Reeds Peak –	evaluate and nominate	N
Mogollon Baldy –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Mangas Mountain –	listed	Y
Fox Mountain –	evaluate and nominate	Y
El Caso –	needs restoration	N
Black Mountain –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Lookout Mountain –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Hillsboro Peak –	listed	Y
Bearwallow Mountain –	not eligible	Y
Saddle Mountain –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Santa Fe National Forest –		
Barillas –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Cerro Pelado –	evaluate and nominate	Y
St. Peter's Dome –	evaluate and nominate	N
Encino –	evaluate and nominate	Y
Glorieta Baldy –	listed	N
Deadman –	not eligible	Y