



ARID PEAK LOOKOUT

REGION ST. JOE AREA, IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS, ID

PORT OF ENTRY WALLACE, ID — VIA SPOKANE INT'L AIRPORT (GEG)

LAT/LONG +47.35889, -115.76528 (approx)

DIRECTIONS

From the east side of Avery, turn left from St. Joe River Rd/NF-50 then immediately turn right onto Moon Pass Rd/NF-456. Follow NF-456 for approximately 4.5 miles. Head left down the hill rather than cross the river onto NF-1997. Continue for another 3.5 miles before taking the first left (also NF-1997). Trailhead #175 is 6.5 miles further; park by the trailhead (there is a turnaround just up the road; do not block the gate or turnaround).

Hike 1.5 miles on Trail #175 until reaching the junction with Trail #173; turn right and hike the remaining 1.5 miles to the Arid Peak lookout.

WEATHER

Mild summers. Temperatures drop sharply come fall, and winter is very cold with consistent snow throughout the season (the tower is some 2,500 feet higher in elevation than Avery). Nights are cold all year.

HISTORY

Built in 1934 and standing twenty feet tall at an elevation of 5,306 feet, Arid Peak Lookout was primarily used to watch over the Milwaukee Railroad as it ran through Avery. It was in service until 1969.

RISKS, HAZARDS, OBSTRUCTIONS

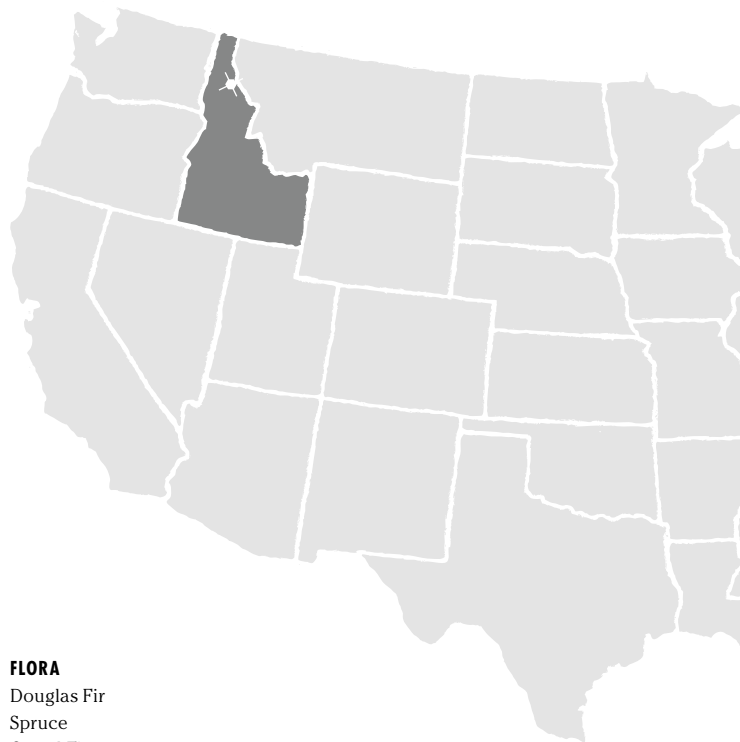
Availability is limited and as with most Fire Towers, popularity is high. Reservations (required) should be made as far in advance as possible to claim desired dates. Lookout is raised and children are discouraged. Grizzly bears inhabit the area; follow posted advisories. No potable water is available at the tower; must be carried in or treated from the stream.

CONTACT

Idaho Panhandle NF, St. Joe River Ranger District (Avery Office) (208) 245-4517

HOURS, ACCESS

Open 1 July to 30 September. Available for reservation on recreation.gov (booking opens six months before the day of your visit). \$25.00/night fee



FLORA

Douglas Fir
Spruce
Grand Fir

FAUNA

Grizzly Bear
Mule / Whitetail Deer
Bobcat
Golden / Bald Eagle
Coyote



COMMENTARY, NOTES & DATA

Restoration was done in 1996 and 1997 by the Forest Fire Lookout Association with the help of the St. Joe River Ranger District; primarily replacing structural beams and replacing the collapsed staircase. Arid Peak Lookout is of the L-4 type: 14x14' with a peaked roof and pre-cut for construction. Houses up to four guests with two cots (with mattresses—no bedding) and propane cooking equipment/lantern (bring your own 16.4 oz propane containers). Outhouse is on site.