



DEER RIDGE LOOKOUT

REGION KANIKSU AREA, IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS, ID

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

LAT/LONG +48.84528, -116.10194 (approx)

DIRECTIONS

From the ranger station in Bonners Ferry (along US-95 on the south side of town), follow US-95 N for approximately 5 miles. Go right onto US-2 E and continue for 2 miles to County Road 34/Meadow Creek Road. A quarter of a mile further, go right to stay on Co Ro 34; continue for 10.5 miles. At the three-way intersection, stay right onto County Road 34-1/Deer Ridge Road. Take a left at the intersection 2.5 miles down the road, then follow for a further 5.5 miles to reach the the lookout.

WEATHER

Mild summers. Temperatures drop sharply come fall and winter is very cold with consistent snow throughout the winter (the tower is some 2,800 feet higher in elevation than Bonners Ferry). Nights are cold all year.

HISTORY

Deer Ridge Lookout has undergone multiple revisions. First built as a cupola cabin in 1920, the original structure was replaced in 1935 with a 20' pole tower and an L-4 cabin (14x14' with a peaked roof), and then again in 1941 with a 40' pole tower and L-4 cabin. The final revision, which still stands today, is a 41' timber tower and an R-6 cabin (15x15' with a flat roof). Last used as a lookout in 1982.

RISKS, HAZARDS, OBSTRUCTIONS

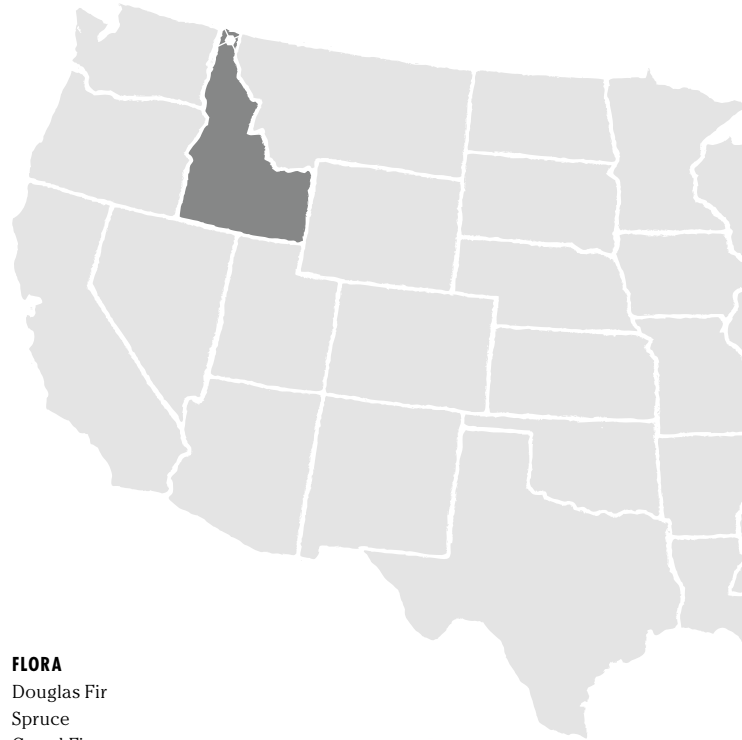
Availability is limited and as with most Fire Towers, popularity is high. Reservations (required) should be made as far in advance as possible to claim desired dates. Grizzly bears inhabit the area; follow posted advisories. Lookout is raised and children are discouraged. There is no water at the tower, drinking water must be packed in. No open flames or cooking is allowed in the cabin; temporary shelter is recommended for cooking in case of rain.

CONTACT

Idaho Panhandle NF, Bonners Ferry Ranger District (208) 267-5561

HOURS, ACCESS

Open 7 June to 28 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

The well maintained gravel road makes Deer Ridge Lookout extremely accessible. Views comparable to that of Shorty Peak Lookout: the Selkirk Mountains to the west, Purcells to the east and Canada to the North. Cabin contains two twin beds with mattresses (no bedding). Huckleberries are plentiful in late summer and there is good fly fishing at the bottom of Deer Ridge Road in the Moyie River.