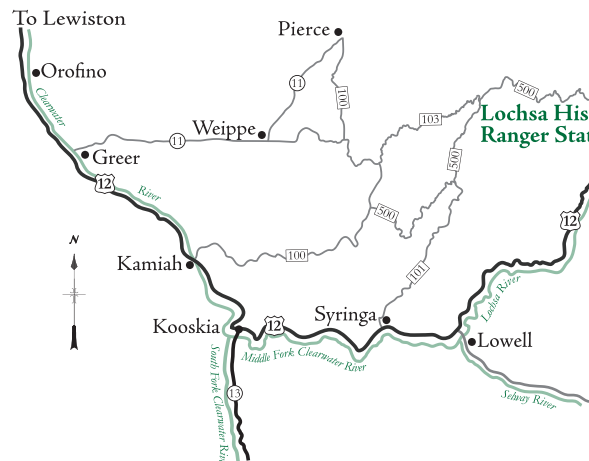




Mules being loaded in front of the Combination Building.

A Working Station

The Lochsa Historical Ranger Station is no longer a working station, however the ranger station remains much as it was in the early 1900s. Horses and mules occasionally occupy the corral when they are not packing supplies into the backcountry. Wilderness rangers sometimes work out of the station. Today's trail crews still learn traditional skills and depend upon non-motorized tools. As these skills become increasingly rare, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness program helps keep the art and science alive.



Built to Last

The buildings at the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station were built primarily from native materials. Anything not locally available was packed in by horse or mule. Most of the original buildings remain in use today.



Whipsawing logs at the Lochsa Ranger Station, 1928.

Listed in 1978 on the National Register of Historic Places, the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station is managed to preserve the nostalgic character of this 1920s working ranger station. Forest Service personnel and volunteers stabilize and care for the structures and artifacts.



Enjoy a self-guided walking tour of the station. Learn more about the Lochsa Ranger District and gain a better understanding of the Forest Service's rich heritage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FORESTS

Supervisor's Office
903 3rd Street
Kamiah, ID 83536
208-935-2513

LOCHSA RANGER DISTRICT
Kooskia Ranger Station
502 Lowry Street • Kooskia, ID 83539
208-926-4274

www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater



Packer Charley Smith heading up the Lochsa River with a load of supplies for the Lochsa Ranger Station, 1924.

The Visitor Center is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
Hours are 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

R1-16-18



United States Department of Agriculture

LOCHSA HISTORICAL RANGER STATION



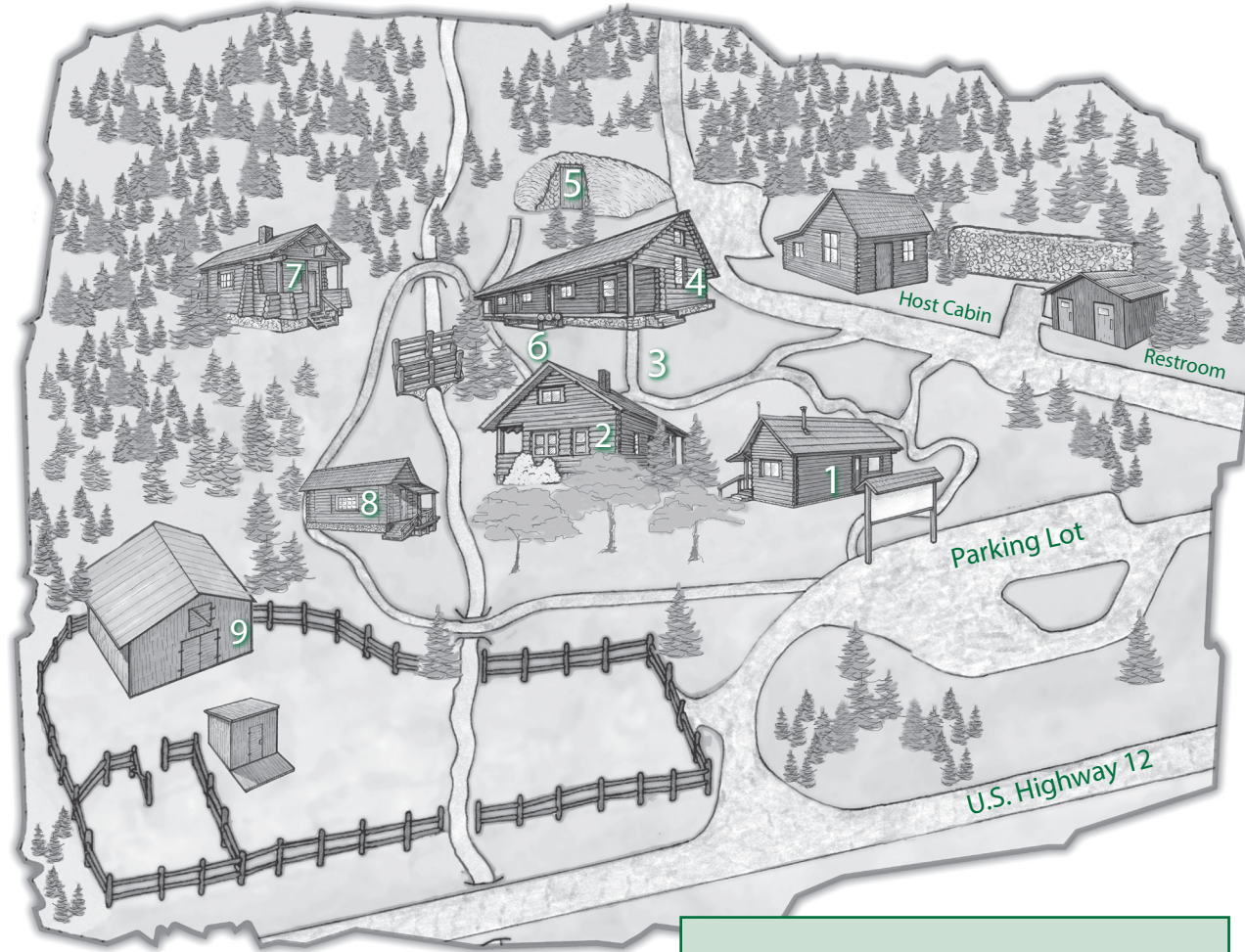
Celebrate the historical legacy of a backcountry ranger station

Hosted by Friends of the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station



Forest Service | Lochsa Ranger District | Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Self-Guided Walking Tour



1. Alternate Ranger Dwelling

Begin your visit by stopping here. The building was constructed in 1931 and is now used as the visitor center. Retired Forest Service volunteers and Forest Service personnel are available to provide information about the station, Forest Service history, and points of local interest.

2. Ranger House and Garden

Constructed in 1933, this two-story building added to the quality of life at the station. Over the years, the rangers' families planted fruit trees and garden plants. The fresh fruits, berries, and vegetables were a welcomed addition to the infrequent supplies delivered by packstring.

3. Woodshed and Whip Saw

Firewood was stored in this shake-sided building, originally constructed in 1929. The whip saw frame was used to produce hand-sawn boards from small logs.

4. Combination Building

This unique building was actually constructed as four separate log structures and later joined under a common roof. The first structure, built in 1927, was a commissary. The ranger's office was added in 1928. The desk was packed in by mule—the load balanced by a large ham and two bales of hay. In 1930, a tool room was added. This room stores traditional tools such as cross cut saws and axes still used by the Forest Service wilderness and trail crews. The kitchen was added in 1933.

5. Root Cellar

Before modern refrigeration, the cellar was used to store perishable foods. Because it maintained a fairly constant temperature, the cellar kept foods cool in summer and prevented them from freezing in winter.

6. Pete King Fire

When the 60,000-acre Pete King Fire raced up the Lochsa Canyon in August 1934, the Lochsa Ranger Station and 200 men were saved against all odds. Listen to the gripping story that describes the terrifying fire and the heroic men who worked so hard to protect the station.

Tips for Visitors

Please remember - because of the risk of fire, we ask that you not smoke beyond the parking area, and please make sure your pets are on a leash.

7. State Line Cabin

Constructed in 1934 near the Idaho-Montana state line at Lolo Pass, this cabin was used as a game checking station and an overnight stop for travelers snowshoeing from Powell to Lolo Hot Springs. The cabin was moved to this site in 1966 to save it from being destroyed. To commemorate its history as a check station, the cabin was dedicated in 2001 to the memory of Michael Gratson and now houses elk ecology and educational information.

8. Boulder Creek Station

This building was originally constructed across the Lochsa River at Boulder Flat. It served as the first headquarters for the Lochsa Ranger District. In 1926, when construction of U.S. Highway 12 was proposed, the cabin was dismantled and floated across the river to its present location. Enjoy displays that highlight the colorful history of backcountry packing and recognize the valuable contributions of Forest Service volunteers.

9. Barn and Corral

The health and safety of the stock used to pack supplies in and out of the backcountry was critical to the success of the ranger district. In 1931, a spacious eight-acre pasture was cleared and a barn constructed. After the Pete King fire claimed the barn in 1934, new structures resembling the original construction were built in the same place.